

Special Committee on Gun Violence Prevention  
June 26, 2019

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON GUN VIOLENCE  
PREVENTION

Room 400, City Hall  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
Wednesday, June 26, 2019  
11:00 a.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCILMAN KENYATTA JOHNSON  
COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR.  
COUNCILWOMAN HELEN GYM  
COUNCILWOMAN MARIA QUINONES-SANCHEZ  
COUNCILWOMAN CINDY BASS  
COUNCILWOMAN CHERELLE PARKER  
COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE BLACKWELL  
COUNCILMAN ALLAN DOMB  
COUNCILMAN DEREK GREEN  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT DARRELL CLARKE  
COUNCILMAN MARK SQUILLA

RESOLUTION 170609 - Resolution authorizing  
the creation of a "Special Committee on Gun  
Violence Prevention" to address  
Philadelphia's enduring plague of gun  
violence by facilitating coordination among  
stakeholders and formulating a comprehensive  
gun violence prevention strategy.

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1                   COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Good morning,  
2                   everyone. May I have your attention, please?  
3                   Good morning everyone. Good morning.

4                   (All, good morning.)

5                   COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: This hearing is  
6                   called to order. This is the public hearing of  
7                   the Special Committee on Gun Violence  
8                   Prevention.

9                   The purpose of this public hearing is to  
10                  hear testimony on Resolution No. 170609.

11                  I'm Councilman Kenyatta Johnson. I'm the  
12                  Chair of the Special Committee on Gun Violence.  
13                  I'm also joined by my co-Chair, Chair of the  
14                  Committee on Public Safety, Councilman Curtis  
15                  Jones.

16                  Today we'll be taking testimony on from  
17                  the Administration on Resolution No. 170609,  
18                  which allows this Committee to hold hearings on  
19                  gun violence related topics.

20                  And with that, will the clerk please read  
21                  the title of the resolution?

22                  THE CLERK: Vanessa Garrett-Harley,  
23                  Richard Ross, David Perri, Cheryl Bettigole.

24                  COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: No. You have to read

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1 the title.

2 THE CLERK: Oh. I'm sorry.

3 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: I want to also  
4 acknowledge the presence of my colleagues,  
5 Councilman Allan Domb as well as Councilman  
6 Derek Green.

7 THE CLERK: The Resolution is authorizing  
8 the creation of a Special Committee on Gun  
9 Violence Prevention to address Philadelphia's  
10 enduring plague of gun violence by facilitating  
11 coordination among stakeholders and formulating  
12 a comprehensive gun violence prevention  
13 strategy.

14 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Before we start,  
15 myself and my co-Chair, Councilman Curtis  
16 Jones, will start with our opening statements.

17 And I want to just -- especially  
18 acknowledge my colleagues who may not sit on  
19 the Committee, but was invited to come and  
20 participate on this particular hearing.

21 Because as we have been saying over the past  
22 couple weeks, this is a serious issue that we  
23 need all hands on deck, all council members to  
24 be involved in, because it impacts not only

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1 individual councilmanic districts, but the City  
2 of Philadelphia as a whole.

3 I'm here today with a heavy heart.  
4 Philadelphia has been hit by a surge in gun  
5 violence. And it has only gotten worse through  
6 the summer. Heat up has started to rise.

7 Homicide and shootings are both about 10  
8 percent over this time last year. And the  
9 violence is more senseless than ever. People  
10 are being shot over petty beefs. Sometimes as  
11 small as perceived disrespect on social media.  
12 Some people become targets by association --  
13 getting shot because they were spotted with  
14 someone in their photo, on a street corner, on  
15 a video on social media.

16 We really hit rock bottom a little over a  
17 week ago when someone shot up a graduation  
18 celebration in Southwest Philadelphia in the  
19 2nd Councilmanic District. Six people were  
20 injured and one was killed.

21 A mass shooting is what we call it, that  
22 took place here in the City of Philadelphia.

23 I want to make sure that as a City, and  
24 particularly as a Councilman, that we

1 aggressively address this issue. And I just  
2 want to recognize that we made national news  
3 for the wrong reasons.

4 Under these circumstances, Philadelphians  
5 don't feel safe. And they can't feel safe.  
6 People are being shot in the streets. People  
7 are being shot in parks. People are being shot  
8 on playgrounds.

9 Just this week, I heard from a constituent  
10 whose 8-year-old son was deeply traumatized by  
11 witnessing a close-range shooting right on  
12 their block. We can't allow people to be held  
13 hostage inside of their homes. This is a  
14 public health crisis. And we've reiterated  
15 this in past occasions. In past occasions, we  
16 were also in the state of emergency.

17 It is times like this that citizens  
18 naturally ask what their government is doing to  
19 solve this problem. That's why we scheduled  
20 this emergency hearing of the Special Committee  
21 on Gun Violence.

22 I established this special committee in  
23 2017 to ensure that gun violence remain a  
24 consistent priority for the City of

1 Philadelphia. I'm proud to say that since the  
2 Kenney Administration has partnered with me and  
3 my colleagues to establish the Office of  
4 Violence Prevention and form a first ever  
5 comprehensive gun violence plan, we're moving  
6 in the right direction, but it's not enough.  
7 We need all hands on deck.

8 I want to specifically say that the  
9 Administration has invested more than  
10 \$30 million to address the issue of gun  
11 violence prevention over the next several  
12 years. But today is for all of us to look at  
13 how can we all strategize together and work as  
14 a team in making the City of Philadelphia safe.

15 I want to specifically say this is not  
16 about who's not doing what. I want to  
17 specifically say, again, it's not about who's  
18 not doing what, but how can we all step up to  
19 the plate and get involved and keep our young  
20 people safe, keep our seniors safe, and keep  
21 our families safe.

22 I want to open this, also -- early on,  
23 this was a hearing specifically geared towards  
24 Members of the Special Committee on Gun

1 Violence as well as the Administration. After  
2 our panelists speak, after members of the  
3 Special Committee on Violence have an  
4 opportunity to give their testimony, we will  
5 open up to the public. We will limit it to two  
6 minutes to have you give an opportunity to talk  
7 about what you think the solutions are.

8 A lot of times we have these sessions, and  
9 people come down and talk about what's not  
10 taking place. And I can understand that,  
11 because we all need to be held accountable.

12 But this is an issue -- this is an issue  
13 that's going to take for everyone to roll up  
14 their sleeves to get involved in. Some people  
15 may say this as parental responsibility. Some  
16 people may say it's poverty. Some people may  
17 say it's the education system. This is a  
18 complex issue. And it's not going to take one  
19 elected official. It's not going to take one  
20 government official to address this issue.

21 It's going to take all of us to roll up our  
22 sleeves and find out how we can keep our City  
23 safe. But most importantly, how can we reduce  
24 the level of gun violence that we're seeing in

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1 our City.

2 And at this particular time, I'm going to  
3 turn the microphone over to Councilman Curtis  
4 Jones who's the co-Chair of the Special  
5 Committee on Gun Violence.

6 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,  
7 Mr. Chairman. And thank you to everyone who's  
8 out here today.

9 This is a passionate issue. And it is my  
10 opinion that everyone here has a stake in it,  
11 both in dealing with the problems on a  
12 day-to-day basis, but also crafting the  
13 solutions that -- short-term and long-term  
14 solutions that we face everyday.

15 It's official. It's summer and according  
16 to statistics, on open day, Philly crime  
17 increases by 24 percent when it gets hot. In  
18 fact, there are indicators that suggest the  
19 hotter it gets the more violent it gets. And  
20 in between the 2016 summer and the 2018 summer,  
21 we've seen those 24 percent spikes in violence.

22 Saturday I had an opportunity to work with  
23 one of my mentors, Sister Falaka Fattah, on a  
24 documentary she was doing for the 70's

1 anti-violence anti-gang war material. Although  
2 it was reminiscent and things changed,  
3 dialogues changed, the more they stayed the  
4 same. If we closed our eyes and listened to  
5 what was being discussed, you could be  
6 discussing this about any hot weekend in the  
7 City of Philadelphia.

8 One of the points that I want to get to  
9 today, things that I want to have discussed  
10 today, is No. 1, we took 72 officers off the  
11 streets. And how does that impact our plan to  
12 stem violence over the summer? These are real  
13 things that we need to discuss.

14 Deputy Managing Director Harley, in your  
15 analysis over the 100 day plan that you put  
16 together, one of the options was using  
17 technology and cameras, live eyes on cameras,  
18 doing virtual patrols. So that not only could  
19 we not just document crime and unfortunately  
20 death, but use them to prevent crimes by  
21 virtual patrols with live eyes working with  
22 boots on the ground, both civilian and police.  
23 We want to see how that plan can be furthered.

24 Has there been a dialogue between the

1     Administration, the FOP, the Sheriff's Office,  
2     to look at creative ways that we can move  
3     non-uniformed police to do traffic and things  
4     like that, so we can put more police in hot  
5     spot areas around the City.

6                 The one thing that we all know is the best  
7     prevention of gun violence often can just be a  
8     job. And there are many people that  
9     passionately, some of them even this morning,  
10    talk about job options for at risk young  
11    people. And those opportunities -- that's a  
12    new term they use people -- people that are  
13    between the ages of 18 and 24, who have a  
14    tendency to be at the heart of the problem.

15                So as we approach the dog days of summer,  
16    I want to know, how can we engage community  
17    organizations, elected officials, the  
18    Administration to work together on some of  
19    these solutions.

20                I understand we haven't done it with  
21    perfection in the past, but I hope that working  
22    together, we can move forward to do it better,  
23    to save these young peoples' lives.

24                I'm looking forward to the discussions

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1 today, the answer to some of the questions that  
2 we can have. And one of the things that  
3 Councilman Johnson and I do, one of the things  
4 that these maps show, is where these violent  
5 acts are happening. There's a geography to it.  
6 If we know certain spots are, literally,  
7 shooting and killing fields, if we can know  
8 that, we can reverse engineer some of the  
9 solutions. And I'll show some of the maps  
10 where this is occurring a little later on.

11 So thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I look  
12 forward to the discussion.

13 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you,  
14 Councilman.

15 I'm going to ask for the clerk to please  
16 call the first panel.

17 THE CLERK: Vanessa Garrett-Harley,  
18 Richard Ross, David Perri, Cheryl Bettigole.

19 (Witnesses approached witness table.)

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: I'd also like to  
21 recognize our President, President of the City  
22 Council, Darrell Clarke is in attendance, as  
23 well.

24 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: And also Councilwoman

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1 Cindy Bass.

2 I want to acknowledge Councilwoman Cindy  
3 Bass before we start the panel.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you,  
5 Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to make really  
6 brief comments based on Councilman Jones's  
7 statement just a second ago. And I wanted to  
8 echo the comments he just stated in terms of  
9 crimes during warm weather months.

10 For those of us, particularly who are  
11 life-long Philadelphians, it's not a surprise  
12 that there's an increase. This is not  
13 something that's new. But the levels of  
14 violence, it's just absolutely out of control  
15 it feels. But we've all seen this during warm  
16 weather months.

17 So I just wanted to state for the record  
18 that we are in the process now of circulating a  
19 letter. And I believe both of you have joined  
20 on in support. And we're talking to all of our  
21 colleagues now. But we are circulating a  
22 letter to the Parks and Recreation Commissioner  
23 asking for longer hours and in structured  
24 programming at our Parks and Recreation

1 Centers.

2 We know this is not the end all to be all,  
3 but this is something that can be targeted  
4 geographically. Councilman Jones, as you  
5 mentioned, this can be targeted geographically  
6 to particular neighborhoods, so that where we  
7 know that violence is more likely to jump off,  
8 that we have some of these programs and  
9 activities in place to keep folks busy.

10 We hear over and over again that they say,  
11 We don't have nothing to do in our  
12 neighborhoods. We don't have activities. And  
13 that is part of what some folks feel leads to  
14 some of the concerns that we have and some of  
15 the violence that we've seen.

16 So I just wanted to be on record to state  
17 that. And thank you for your support of that  
18 measure. Thank you.

19 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you,  
20 Councilwoman Bass. And thank you for your  
21 leadership in that area.

22 I remember -- and I've been doing this  
23 work for a while, so it's not about being an  
24 elected official as to why I'm doing this work.

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1 I've been doing this work as an activist for  
2 more than 20 years. And I remember we had the  
3 Beacon Program where the schools would actually  
4 open all across the City of Philadelphia from  
5 3:00 to 9:00 p.m. to get young people off the  
6 streets. And so I thank you for your  
7 leadership in trying to find innovative ways  
8 for us to get our young people.

9 With that being said, whoever would like  
10 to start to present their testimony first can  
11 begin.

12 MS. HARLEY: Good morning.

13 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Good morning.

14 MS. HARLEY: Good morning, Chair Johnson  
15 and Members of The Special Committee On Gun  
16 Violence Prevention, I am Vanessa  
17 Garrett-Harley, Deputy Managing Director for  
18 Criminal Justice and the Public Safety Cabinet.

19 With me today from the Office of Violence  
20 Prevention is Theron Pride, Senior Director of  
21 Violence Strategies and Programs, and Shondell  
22 Revel, Executive Director.

23 While every notification that I receive of  
24 a shooting informing me that a person's life

1 has been cut short or irrevocably damaged  
2 because of gun violence in our community is  
3 haunting, the last few weekends in particular  
4 have weighed heavily on my mind and my heart.  
5 So I want to thank you for calling this hearing  
6 and allowing me to testify regarding our  
7 progress on implementing the City's  
8 Comprehensive Violence Prevention Strategy, the  
9 Philadelphia Roadmap to Safer Communities or  
10 the Roadmap as we refer to it.

11 I particularly want to thank you for your  
12 continued leadership and impassioned advocacy  
13 to stem gun violence in our neighborhoods.

14 I also want to express my gratitude to you  
15 for making sure that the Fiscal Year 2020 to  
16 2024 budget that you recently passed included  
17 the additional \$31.5 million of additional  
18 funding that the Mayor allocated for the  
19 Roadmap.

20 When I came before you in March to testify  
21 about our strategy, I testified that the  
22 Roadmap is a five year compressive action plan  
23 to reduce and prevent gun violence in the City.  
24 It envisions that every Philadelphian will be

1 safe from gun violence in their communities  
2 with full access to opportunities to create  
3 their path to a fulfilling life.

4 Using a public health approach to address  
5 gun violence, we brought together multiple City  
6 agencies and partners, including police, to  
7 develop and implement the Roadmap.

8 We meet biweekly to review data, discuss  
9 emerging trends, and hear from police  
10 commanders and exchange ideas. The Roadmap is  
11 not just a nicely printed report. It's a  
12 living plan that will guide us as we address  
13 the problem of gun violence over the next  
14 several years.

15 The Roadmap integrates evidence-based  
16 strategies that focus not only on apprehending  
17 the most violent individuals, but also on  
18 promoting health and wellbeing in our  
19 communities, especially among the individuals  
20 most vulnerable to gun violence.

21 Most importantly, by using data and  
22 research from public health, police and other  
23 agencies and listening to people in the  
24 communities most impacted by gun violence, we

1 have developed a better understanding of what  
2 is driving the violence in Philadelphia, and  
3 apply that knowledge in the Roadmap to  
4 implement what works to address the root causes  
5 of gun violence.

6 The Roadmap also lays out four major goals  
7 that places a special emphasis on the young  
8 people in places at the highest risk of  
9 violence. And I would like to highlight some  
10 of the progress that we made within each of  
11 these goals since January.

12 Goal one is about making sure youth, young  
13 adults and their families at the highest risk  
14 of gun violence are connected to needed  
15 services and supports.

16 Goal two is about strengthening our  
17 engagement in communities impacted by violence  
18 to better assist local efforts to address this  
19 problem.

20 Goal three is focused on improving how  
21 well City services and planning efforts related  
22 to violence prevention are coordinated.

23 And goal four is about creating safer and  
24 healthier neighborhoods where people have an

1 increased sense of safety and can thrive in the  
2 communities where they live, work and play.

3 Since March, when I first came before you,  
4 I'm happy to report that we have increased the  
5 number of available subsidized job training and  
6 employment opportunities and work readiness  
7 programs through 14 providers for youth and  
8 young adults at risk of violence with a \$2.1  
9 million investment of Temporary Assistance for  
10 Needy Families, or TANF, youth development  
11 funds that were made available to us through  
12 the Philadelphia Works.

13 We have expanded the Youth Violence  
14 Reduction Partnership, known as YVRP. And we  
15 are working to expand the Community Crisis  
16 Intervention Program, CCIP, so that it can  
17 expand to more districts to connect and engage  
18 more youth, young adults and their families  
19 impacted by violence -- to assist them with  
20 assessing needed services and supports.

21 We've increased summer job recruitment for  
22 this year's work ready programs in areas where  
23 youth and young adults are at a high risk of  
24 gun violence and where recruitment in previous

1 years has been low. And we started summer work  
2 experiences City-wide two weeks earlier than  
3 usual, as well.

4 We announced 47 awards for the Targeted  
5 Community Investment Grant Program as part of  
6 first round of funding for community-based  
7 organizations working to prevent violence in  
8 their communities. Awards range from 5,000 to  
9 \$20,000 and a total of 700,000 was award.

10 Continued to convene the executive  
11 implementation biweekly, that Police  
12 Commissioner Ross and I chair, to direct needed  
13 services and supports to the areas law  
14 enforcement has identified using crime data and  
15 the intelligence that they've gathered, as part  
16 of the Philadelphia Police Department's Violent  
17 Crime Reduction Strategy Operation Pinpoint.

18 We have most recently begun focusing on  
19 specific hot spots on pinpoint areas in these  
20 meeting and bringing together other government  
21 stakeholders to see how we can be more precise  
22 and targeted with our resources and approach in  
23 these neighborhoods.

24 In these meetings, we have identified the

1 assets in these neighborhoods. And we are  
2 developing strategies around strengthening  
3 those assets, but we've also identified gaps  
4 and services and resources in trying to come up  
5 with ways to address those gaps as quickly as  
6 possible.

7 With the additional funding that you have  
8 ensured us, we have been able to begin hiring  
9 for new staff for several key positions,  
10 including intelligence analysts for the Police  
11 Department, an injury prevention team at Public  
12 Health, and additional crisis workers for the  
13 expansion for the CCIP program.

14 We've also begun to raise the profile and  
15 elevate reentry efforts in City government by  
16 creating a new Office of Reentry Partnerships  
17 in the Managing Director's Office.

18 We're also very committed to continuing  
19 our collaboration with you and the rest of our  
20 criminal justice partners to work quickly but  
21 effectively towards implementing evidence-based  
22 violent crimes strategy, such as the focused  
23 deterrence model in Philadelphia.

24 We have been speaking with State

1 Representative Movita Johnson-Harrell as well  
2 as District Attorney Larry Krasner to make this  
3 a reality, because we understand the urgent  
4 need for solutions. And more is to come.

5 We are improving environmental conditions  
6 by cleaning, greening and maintenance of vacant  
7 lots in neighborhoods with the highest risk of  
8 gun violence. Since February 23rd 2019, 176  
9 properties have been cleaned and sealed in  
10 these pinpoint areas.

11 We are expanding the number of crew teams  
12 for the Community Life Improvement Program  
13 known as CLIP using the TANF funds available  
14 through the Philadelphia Works Youth  
15 Initiatives to provide on the job training for  
16 young adults and to help with addressing  
17 quality of life issues in communities.

18 As I stated earlier, the problem of gun  
19 violence impacts all of us. And while the  
20 problem with gun violence is very complex, this  
21 challenge is not insurmountable. The efforts  
22 and programs I noted above are all part of what  
23 we hope will be a lasting solution. There is  
24 no single answer.

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1           We can't police our way out of this, but I  
2    am convinced that the full scope of the  
3    initiatives spelled out in our Roadmap will  
4    make a difference. With the right strategy and  
5    tools and with all of us working together, I  
6    know we can reduce and prevent gun violence in  
7    our communities.

8           Thank you for allowing me to testify  
9    today. We look forward to our continued  
10    partnership with this Committee and City  
11    Council. My staff and I as well as others from  
12    the Administration helping us to implement the  
13    Roadmap are available to answer any questions  
14    you might have about our violence prevention  
15    plan.

16           COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you.

17           DR. BETTIGOLE: Good morning, Council  
18    Member Johnson and Members of the Special  
19    Committee on Gun Violence Prevention. I'm  
20    Dr. Cheryl Bettigole, the Director of The  
21    Division of Chronic Disease and Injury  
22    Prevention for the City of Philadelphia.

23           I'm here to testify regarding Resolution  
24    No. 170609, authorizing the hearings to examine

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1 the plague of gun violence by facilitating  
2 coordination amongst stakeholders and  
3 formulating a comprehensive gun violence  
4 prevention strategy.

5 I am grateful for City Council's ongoing  
6 commitment to preventing further deaths and  
7 injuries from gun violence in our City.

8 In the late 1990's while working a shift  
9 in the pediatric emergency department, I was  
10 called in to see an infant, who had been  
11 involved in a serious car accident. The car  
12 had been totaled. The parents, who were lucky  
13 to have survived, were terrified that their  
14 baby girl had been riding in the part of the  
15 car that was most damaged in the crash.

16 I braced myself for the worst and went in  
17 to examine the child. What I found amazed me.  
18 The baby, who was still nestled snuggling in  
19 her car seat, greeted me with a smile. I  
20 examined her carefully. She had been  
21 completely unharmed. She didn't have a single  
22 bruise on her.

23 Despite the wreckage around her, she had  
24 been spared from injury -- saved by her car

1 seat and by the decades of prevention research  
2 that went into its design.

3       When I talk to parents and grandparents  
4 who have lost children and grandchildren,  
5 spouses and siblings to gun violence, I think  
6 about that beautiful baby and about our failure  
7 to assist on the same public health response to  
8 gun violence that we have seen to the  
9 prevention of deaths and injuries from car  
10 crashes. We've made our roads safer,  
11 redesigned our cars to ensure they pass crash  
12 tests, and instituted strict laws against drunk  
13 driving. That is what the public health  
14 approach to injury prevention looks like.

15       It includes environmental systems and  
16 policy approaches to change the context in  
17 which we fallible humans live our lives.

18       As a City, we may feel powerless in the  
19 face of state and federal legislators, who  
20 refuse to take action despite widespread  
21 support for sensible gun safety laws.

22       City Council has passed strong local gun  
23 safety laws that could make a difference, but  
24 we desperately need the state to repeal

1 preemption to allow them to be enforced.

2       But there's important work that we do have  
3 the power to do and that we've committed  
4 ourselves to move forward.

5       Firstly, we need to better understand the  
6 drivers of violence, what is working and what  
7 isn't. That means sharing data across city  
8 departments and agencies to look for patterns  
9 that might be amendable to change.

10       If we identify those at higher risk and  
11 figure out which interventions are most  
12 effective for whom, we can start to make a  
13 difference. Those interventions aren't  
14 necessarily criminal justice approaches. If we  
15 could arrest our way out of this problem, we  
16 would have done so long since. They may be  
17 after school programs, job programs, behavioral  
18 health interventions or other social supports.

19       We already know that all known homicide  
20 perpetrators in 2017 had a history of a felony  
21 in the past 10 years. We need to know more,  
22 though, about how those who committed violent  
23 acts compared with those who didn't in terms of  
24 both of their risk factor exposures and the

1 social supports they received.

2 In other words, we need to identify the  
3 interventions that work and commit to scaling  
4 them up. Ensure our highest risk residents  
5 receive the interventions they need, and we  
6 need to figure out if some of our current  
7 interventions aren't effective, and stop doing  
8 them.

9 Towards that end, we've been working to  
10 build an injury prevention unit focused on the  
11 prevention of gun violence within the public  
12 health department.

13 I'm happy to announce -- I'm really happy  
14 to announce -- that we're hiring Dr. Ruth Abaya  
15 as our injury prevention program manager.

16 Dr. Abaya is a pediatric emergency department  
17 physician at Children's Hospital of  
18 Philadelphia and a fellow of CHOP's Violence  
19 Prevention Initiative. She is passionate about  
20 the prevention of gun violence through an  
21 evidence-based, community-informed approach.

22 We're also working on hiring an  
23 epidemiologist, who will be embedded with the  
24 Police in the Delaware Valley Intelligence

1 Center, working on analyses that combine police  
2 and criminal justice data with Health and Human  
3 Services data from the CARES regularity.

4 We're grateful to the Police for their  
5 willingness to partner of a public health  
6 analyses of our shared data sets.

7 We're also working on setting up Firearm  
8 Homicide Death Review that will take a deep  
9 dive into the circumstances that lead to gun  
10 and homicides in our City and bring  
11 stakeholders together for in depth discussions  
12 of homicides in ways they might have been  
13 prevented.

14 And we're working on funding to expand our  
15 evidence-based anti-violence media campaign You  
16 Shoot, Now What? This campaign was piloted  
17 through a collaborative effort of the  
18 Philadelphia Department of Public Health, the  
19 Managing Director's Office of Violence  
20 Prevention, the Philadelphia Police Department  
21 and the Philadelphia anti-drug anti-violence  
22 network or PAAN.

23 The campaign hired participants from the  
24 youth violence reduction partnership to help

1 disseminate information designed to start  
2 thoughtful conversations about gun violence.

3 60 percent of people shown the ads agreed  
4 or strongly agreed that they would be less  
5 likely to carry a gun after seeing the campaign  
6 versus only 30 percent of controls. And  
7 71 percent shown the ads agreed or strongly  
8 agreed that they would be more likely to walk  
9 away from an argument after seeing the campaign  
10 versus 34 percent of controls.

11 We hope to do a large scale expansion of  
12 the grassroots campaign in high-violence  
13 neighborhoods across the City based on this  
14 evaluation data, and we're currently working on  
15 obtaining funding for that effort.

16 In the short-term, though, we've reprinted  
17 campaign materials including resource  
18 information about the City's job hotline, GED  
19 and college educational opportunities, and  
20 antiviolence hotline information. And these  
21 materials are being distributed through the  
22 efforts of community partners.

23 This is only the beginning of our work.  
24 We're committed to making real change through

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1 an approach that recognizes that hope and  
2 opportunity can be public health interventions,  
3 that every child in our City deserves a full  
4 and satisfying life, and that our job as public  
5 health professionals is to figure out solutions  
6 that work and implement them.

7 We look forward to working with City  
8 Council to help implement these solutions to  
9 build a future not marred by gun violence.

10 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.  
11 I'll be happy to respond to any questions.

12 COMMISSIONER ROSS: I was told by Vanessa  
13 Garrett-Harley she wanted Commissioner Perri to  
14 go next.

15 COMMISSIONER PERRI: Good morning,  
16 Chairperson Johnson and Members of the Special  
17 Committee on Gun Violence Prevention. I'm  
18 David Perri, Commissioner of the Department of  
19 Licenses and Inspections. Today I'm here to  
20 provide testimony regarding Resolution No.  
21 170609.

22 The Department of Licenses and Inspections  
23 will be leading the Administration's effort to  
24 identify and remediate blight in sections of

1 the City that are experiencing high rates of  
2 gun violence. Multiple studies including  
3 research recently completed by the University  
4 of Pennsylvania and Columbia University,  
5 indicate a strong correlation between blight  
6 remediation through greening and cleaning and a  
7 reduction in violent crime in targeted areas.

8 The Administration is proposing a four  
9 part plan which includes the following  
10 components: No. 1, sealing of vacant  
11 properties, No. 2, demolition of unsafe and  
12 imminently dangerous buildings, No. 3,  
13 cleaning, greening and fencing of vacant lots,  
14 No. 4 through creation of faux window and door  
15 treatment on abandoned buildings.

16 What makes this effort different from what  
17 we have historically done is that, No. 1, our  
18 program will be tightly focused on discrete  
19 areas where gun violence is highly  
20 concentrated. These target areas will be  
21 identified by the Police Department and an  
22 analysis of crime statistics.

23 Phase one of the initiative in Fiscal Year  
24 2020 will be completed within an 1.5 square

1 mile area that represents just 1.1 percent of  
2 the land mass of Philadelphia.

3 No. 2, in contrast to our traditional  
4 complaint-based reactive response, we will  
5 systemically seek out and proactively identify  
6 specific locations where interventions are  
7 needed.

8 Our budget is modest, but we believe that  
9 focusing these new resources within targeted  
10 areas will significantly improve the quality of  
11 life and foster a sense of neighborhood  
12 empowerment, security and control. These are  
13 necessary components for a crime reduction.

14 The budget for Fiscal Year 2020 is \$1.75  
15 million. And the total budget is \$6.26 million  
16 over the five year life of the plan. This  
17 budget will support the hiring of an additional  
18 seven person clean and seal crew dedicated to  
19 this project, 20 additional positions for CLIP,  
20 and an increase in demolition funds.

21 We will also coordinate with partner  
22 agencies including Streets, Parks and  
23 Recreation and the Water Department to bring  
24 additional resources to the specified areas as

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1       needed.

2           As we are seeing with the Philadelphia  
3       Resilience Project in the Kensington area,  
4       coordination across City agencies increases  
5       impact.

6           Thank you for the opportunity to provide  
7       the Department's testimony. I will happy to  
8       respond to questions at this time.

9           COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you.

10       Commissioner Ross?

11       COMMISSIONER ROSS: Good morning,  
12       Committee Chair and also Committee personnel.  
13       I am joined here today by several members of my  
14       Staff including but not limited to First Deputy  
15       Patterson, Deputy Commissioners Sullivan and  
16       Wilson, Chief Inspectors Holmes, Dales, Kelly,  
17       Manor and McDonald as well as some civilian  
18       members here, because of the level of  
19       commitment that we have for this issue.

20       If it's okay with you, you have my  
21       testimony. I will summarize in bullet form and  
22       allow you more time for questions if that's  
23       okay.

24       COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Yes.

1                   COMMISSIONER ROSS: So as was mentioned by  
2                   Vanessa Garrett-Harley, Pinpoint is our  
3                   policing plan that we've implemented, which is  
4                   a plan which integrates and hotspot policing  
5                   and intelligence-led policing and leveraging  
6                   other City resources in order to impact  
7                   particular crime ridden areas.

8                   At present, this program started in seven  
9                   districts. And we obviously plan to expanded  
10                   it. Our initial analysis, here, to date  
11                   indicates that in those pinpoint areas, we've  
12                   seen a 20 percent decrease in shooting and  
13                   homicide victims. However, that is juxtaposed  
14                   to the 8 percent increase in the other areas  
15                   that is not covered by Pinpoint.

16                   So clearly, as we look to phase it in,  
17                   there's some optimism about Pinpoint and the  
18                   successes that we've had so far. But again,  
19                   these are not panaceas and nor would we ever  
20                   suggest that.

21                   Infoshare is program, an analytical  
22                   program, that we were able to acquire with the  
23                   help of our Police Foundation. We talked  
24                   before at our budget hearing about how, quite

1     frankly, as a department and to some extent the  
2     City were woefully behind from infrastructure  
3     standpoint technologically. It's not anybody's  
4     fault. This dates back for years.

5           And so there are departments much smaller  
6     than ours that have had significant analytical  
7     capabilities that we have not had.

8           Analytical capabilities like Infoshare  
9     that we do now have that will enable us to pull  
10    multiple data systems together so that we can  
11    analyze things in seconds as opposed to having  
12    officers go through 10 different data points to  
13    try to figure out what's going on. So we have  
14    that system now. We've got it in place. We've  
15    got 400 that are trained right now. It enables  
16    us to have greater access to data, as I have  
17    mentioned.

18           In addition to which, we've got 23 new  
19    gunshot detection systems. It is not  
20    ShotSpotter. It's something that we believe is  
21    a little bit better. It's something called  
22    Century, because they are connected to cameras.  
23    And the idea is that the camera will pivot  
24    immediately to the sound of gunshots. It's

1 also a belief by my experts that this system is  
2 better able to distinguish between an actual  
3 gunshot and a truck backfire, which is  
4 critical, because you don't want police  
5 officers racing to those types of scenes. Not  
6 only wasting time, but potentially putting  
7 themselves in harm's way.

8       But we believe the systems will help, as  
9 of -- or as of September of this year, we  
10 believe we will add 27 more. The only problem  
11 with these systems is they are an after the  
12 fact issue. But these are systems that,  
13 obviously, many departments are going to -- in  
14 advance of any questions about ShotSpotter.  
15 ShotSpotter is an extremely expensive cost  
16 endeavor.

17       And as I understand it, it also requires  
18 that the systems or the cameras be contiguous  
19 to one another, which is not necessarily our  
20 issues as our problems are spread throughout  
21 the City in different hotspots.

22       Vanessa mentioned the analyst that we are  
23 hiring. Another issue where we have been  
24 woefully behind on. Civilian analysts are

1 typically trained in academia to do the work of  
2 analyzing things, that quite frankly, police  
3 officers have not been trained to do.

4 We've got dynamic police officers who --  
5 you give them a task and they'll do it. But  
6 quite frankly, it's not the thing that they  
7 were trained to do. So civilians bring some  
8 great insight to issues.

9 We've got some great ones here today.  
10 Kevin Thomas is just one example. And there  
11 are many, many others who are able to look  
12 through a different set of lenses, you know, to  
13 analyze data from a high level 10,000 foot view  
14 without any preconceived notions that sometimes  
15 we do have, as a result of our experience.  
16 Sometimes a great deal on what you see depends  
17 on what you're looking for, right? And so  
18 that's not always a good thing.

19 And so sometimes when you have folks that  
20 are looking at things differently, it will help  
21 you.

22 One of the things that we're doing that we  
23 did mention is extended tours going into the  
24 summer. For example. Highway Patrol, Narcotics

1 Strike Force and multiple district personnel  
2 are working extended tours, particularly on  
3 Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

4 Typically, those units were working either  
5 4 to 12, or 6 to 2. Many of them have been  
6 extended to 3:00 and 4:00 in the morning. It's  
7 a way of leveraging additional resources, which  
8 is something that we desperately need.

9 We've had several narcotics initiatives  
10 throughout the City, which have resulted in  
11 multiple gun seizures. Now, this is not gun  
12 arrests of individuals carrying guns on the  
13 street. That's a separate category. These are  
14 as a result of search warrants that were done  
15 as a result of probable cause. And you hit  
16 houses for narcotics and multiple guns have  
17 been seized. The gun seizures are up  
18 significantly just in that arena alone.

19 Multiple arrests have been made for  
20 narcotics violations in a effort to stem the  
21 tide of violence, as we certainly -- I don't  
22 think very many people try to deny the  
23 connectivity between guns and drugs and the  
24 violence that will sometimes result from it.

1           And so that's one thing. You heard me  
2 mention in addition to that, the number of  
3 arrests for what we call VUFA which is  
4 Violation of the Uniform Firearms Act, for  
5 people carrying guns illegally without a permit  
6 on the streets of Philadelphia.

7           And I've used 2015 and juxtaposed those  
8 two years, the year to date versus 2015, and we  
9 literally have doubled the number of arrests  
10 that we've had then. Which, you know, in one  
11 way speaks to the commitment and the  
12 intelligence that we need to target the right  
13 people, because what we want to do is precision  
14 policing. We don't want to get everybody with  
15 a broad brush. We don't want to get out there  
16 and start creating friction in neighborhoods  
17 that we're trying to build relationships with.

18           But the downside of it is, on some level  
19 or another, it does speak to a willingness to  
20 carry more guns on the street, which is  
21 troubling.

22           And so these are things that we're looking  
23 to examine to try to get our arms around why  
24 that's happening. Gun carrying in Philadelphia

1 is certainly not a new thing. It's always been  
2 a troublesome thing. It's been an issue in my  
3 30 years on this job so far.

4 So what is even more concerning than the  
5 number -- and I don't want anybody to be  
6 offended by what I'm about to say, because  
7 people who follow the numbers know that they  
8 are always very concerning -- we're not setting  
9 records, but we should maintain, as you said, a  
10 commitment, ongoing commitment, to this issue.

11 In fact, in 2012, we had 20 more murders  
12 than we have today. But the issue is one that  
13 we should stay on our radar every day, all the  
14 time. It shouldn't be when we reach some  
15 artificial threshold that we believe is  
16 unacceptable. It should always be  
17 unacceptable.

18 Behind these numbers are people. People  
19 that have families that are devastated by what  
20 they see each and every day. It's not just the  
21 carnage that impacts the actual victims. It's  
22 the carnage that is created from young children  
23 that have to witness this, that should never  
24 see this. From families who are worried about

1       bullets that are flying down the street from  
2       innocent victims.

3           If you look at the incident -- this  
4       happened the other day in the 1st District in  
5       South Philadelphia that started with a domestic  
6       incident inside -- stabbing, that ends up with  
7       three people shot, none of whom were involved  
8       in that incident as far as we know including  
9       the decedent.

10          And then there's -- immediately after --  
11       well, let me change that phraseology. An hour  
12       and a half or so later, right around the  
13       corner, not 50 yards away with police cars  
14       right there, a gentleman or someone pulls up  
15       and kills a gentleman standing right there, you  
16       know, without any regard for the fact that  
17       there were multiple police cars, news cameras  
18       that were on that block, which was immediately  
19       around the corner. It speaks to the brazen  
20       nature of some of the people out here willing  
21       to commit violence.

22          The issue at hand today is that we have to  
23       make sure that we don't unduly incarcerate  
24       people for nominal offenses and things that

1 really don't make any sense. We don't have an  
2 interest, in the Police Department, in filling  
3 up jails and putting a bunch of people in jail  
4 for things that really are insignificant or  
5 minor in nature.

6 But there are people, by virtue of the  
7 nature of the acts they are willing to commit,  
8 that belong in jail. And that's just a  
9 reality.

10 And as a City, we've got to come to grips  
11 with that. And we got to make sure they are  
12 removed from the streets so that they are not  
13 able to harm people, who are just going about  
14 the business of raising their families and doing  
15 what they have to do.

16 Just very quickly and I'll end.  
17 Councilman, you asked about the police officers  
18 on the street. Clearly, because of that  
19 issue -- and I don't want to venture too far  
20 down that path about what that was about -- we  
21 felt that it's such a profound and  
22 devastating -- has a devastating impact on our  
23 brand and our reputation that we have to do  
24 what we have to do in the short term until we

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1 can get our arms around where each individual  
2 is relative to the infractions that they may  
3 have committed.

4 As a result, some of those folks will be  
5 returned after they get the requisite diversity  
6 training and things like that. But we have to  
7 take those actions -- and we do believe by  
8 virtue of the fact that many of them are spread  
9 throughout the Department -- some of who  
10 weren't even in street duty in the first  
11 place -- that we're able to deal with that.

12 But clearly, as I've said in a press  
13 conference, we always want more police officers  
14 anyway. So the notion of does it impact us --  
15 sure it impacts us, but it doesn't have the  
16 impact that it could have otherwise had, had it  
17 really hit one district or one division.

18 And I'll just open it up to your questions  
19 right now.

20 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you very much.  
21 I want to acknowledge the presence of my  
22 colleagues Councilman Mark Squilla,  
23 Councilwoman Maria Quinones-Sanchez,  
24 Councilwoman Helen Gym and Councilwoman

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1 Cherelle Parker. I want to thank all of you  
2 for being here at this very critically,  
3 important hearing.

4 I want to let -- before I turn it over to  
5 Councilman Curtis Jones to begin asking his  
6 questions, one thing I wanted to follow up on,  
7 I reached out to Rob Wonderling from the  
8 Chamber of Commerce and will soon be speaking  
9 to David Cohen, as well, regarding -- looking  
10 at how can we engage in the public private  
11 partnership with the Philadelphia Police  
12 Department when it comes to the philanthropic  
13 support.

14 A lot of times Philadelphia is compared to  
15 New York and how New York has reduced their  
16 level of gun violence. But when we talk about  
17 resources, right, similar to New York, also in  
18 Chicago, the business community put up more  
19 than \$100 million to support those individual  
20 police departments to help build their  
21 infrastructure and also outreach from a support  
22 standpoint.

23 And I took your comments at the last  
24 hearing as seriously and decided to start

1 looking at, again, how can we be supportive  
2 from a council standpoint to step up our  
3 efforts to address this issue.

4 When you talk about operation Pinpoint,  
5 you said it's in seven police districts across  
6 the City of Philadelphia. So I want to get an  
7 understanding of how are those districts  
8 picked, what districts are they. And when we  
9 look at expanding City wide, what's the  
10 timeline based upon the current condition of  
11 violence that we're seeing, here, in the City  
12 of Philadelphia right now?

13 COMMISSIONER ROSS: So first of all, thank  
14 you for engaging the business community and  
15 you're right. That our colleagues, many of  
16 whom I was just with in DC along with the DA on  
17 Monday, have very vibrant police foundations.  
18 We've got a great one. But even that  
19 foundation that we have is trying to get the  
20 bigger dollar donations from business.

21 And so cities like Chicago, like you said,  
22 have been able to get donations that have  
23 helped the departments, particularly with  
24 issues relative to analytics, which is really

1 the wave of the future. If you were to ask me  
2 today -- first of all, any police chief would  
3 always want more personnel. But I would  
4 actually pause and say, that's not my ask right  
5 now. My ask is for dollars that will enable us  
6 to purchase analytics, even beyond Infoshare,  
7 that will enable us to do our job better and  
8 faster. And that's the name of the game.

9 So thank you for following through on  
10 that, you know, I'm hopeful that those  
11 conversations will help.

12 The Pinpoint districts were selected  
13 because of data. Because of the areas -- we  
14 could have picked any number of areas, but we  
15 wanted to make sure that we covered all six  
16 police Divisions.

17 So we have at least one from every one of  
18 the six police divisions. And we're going  
19 everywhere from the 12th to the 22nd. We've  
20 got the 35th, the 24th and the 25th. We've got  
21 the 15th and so forth and so on to add up to  
22 seven. We want to move forward in very short  
23 order. And we're going to move, at least to  
24 the 39th. We want to move, ultimately, to the

1 whole City. We want to do this right -- can't  
2 just move quickly and say that you're somewhere  
3 knowing that you're not really supporting the  
4 plan and you're just saying you're there.

5 This is multifaceted approach. It doesn't  
6 just involve us, it involves other City  
7 agencies. But even relative to police  
8 resources, we want to make sure that we're  
9 where we're supposed to be. And some of the  
10 data has already indicated that we are.

11 We are firm believers in Pinpoint. We  
12 believe it's going to help us. But as you  
13 indicated, there's not going to be just one  
14 magical solution for this. We've seen these  
15 numbers ebb and flow over the years. And what  
16 we've got to do is a little bit more than just  
17 even a police plan. We've got to start at the  
18 beginning, and even have some tough  
19 conversations that people don't want to have.  
20 And I'm going to leave that for somebody else  
21 for the moment and stay in my world.

22 It's certainly not just going to be about  
23 policing in terms of getting our way out of  
24 this. And I'm talking about precipitous

1 declines that just don't go from one year to  
2 the next. And then you go three years later  
3 and they spike again. We're talking about  
4 having Philadelphia get to a point where we can  
5 move this needle and keep it there and save  
6 these lives and save these families.

7 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Let's talk about the  
8 homicide rate. What's the current clearance  
9 rate right now?

10 COMMISSIONER ROSS: 52.8, so it's just  
11 about 53 percent.

12 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: About 53 percent.  
13 And what are we doing -- obviously, from a  
14 personnel standpoint -- to make sure that we're  
15 closing as many cases as possible, but also --  
16 and that is an issue that's very near and dear  
17 to my heart, because I do a lot of victims of  
18 gun violence, the parents, the fathers, the  
19 siblings -- how we're going about, also -- is  
20 there any strategies or initiative that come  
21 with building relationships inside of  
22 communities to help individuals feel more  
23 comfortable coming forward with information to  
24 help clear the homicide rates?

1                   COMMISSIONER ROSS: Sure. So first of  
2 all, with regard to what we're doing internally  
3 in the Homicide Unit, we have added upwards of  
4 11 or 12 homicide detectives to ensure that you  
5 keep a case load that's manageable. And  
6 there's some national figures. Some say no  
7 more than six to seven per detective. And you  
8 want to keep it in that realm.

9                   But making sure that they have the  
10 requisite equipment that they need, we did a  
11 little in rather old building -- hopefully  
12 we'll actually be in the new one by the end of  
13 next year or the following year, but, you  
14 know -- we provided some more space for them to  
15 work in.

16                   But with regard to building relationships,  
17 that's an ongoing thing. That's not one thing  
18 that we chose one plan, one endeavor, one  
19 outing. This is ongoing in all of our 21  
20 districts. All these folks are encouraged to  
21 develop these relationships. And we got some  
22 really good ones. But I will not deny the fact  
23 that there are neighborhoods that we've got  
24 some work to do. There are some where you can

1 go in a particular district where, you know,  
2 three blocks that are adjacent to each other,  
3 they got a great relationship. And then you go  
4 to the next one, and they don't quite feel the  
5 same way. So it's a building block process.  
6 It's not easy.

7 But there are things that are being done  
8 that are beyond and outside of the scope of  
9 policing that I would argue are doing just  
10 that, that are also helping folks in the City.

11 You've heard of our jobs program where, I  
12 believe, the last number is 62 or more people  
13 are now employed as a result of the jobs  
14 program that Southwest Philadelphia had  
15 started. That's uncharacteristic of a police  
16 department. It's not even, quite frankly,  
17 within our purview. We support it, because  
18 it's just one effort to move to call forward in  
19 addition to which and sadly it did not get  
20 covered -- and that might be our fault -- on  
21 City Line Avenue on Friday. I was there. Over  
22 30 people got their GED on a program that was  
23 started by the Police Department, Southwest  
24 Philly, again, in conjunction with OIC. And it

1 was nice to see folks, most of whom have been  
2 in the system -- that was one of the  
3 criteria -- so to see them and their families  
4 and how happy they were -- and this was an  
5 endeavor that a lot of people don't realize.

6 In addition to the partnership, in order  
7 to even have that graduation, a lot of those  
8 police officers came out of their pockets to  
9 actually help pay for that.

10 And there's a district out there, the  
11 16th, that actually has a SAT prep program in  
12 conjunction with Villanova University. So  
13 there a lot of things being done all across  
14 this City, some of which do not get highlighted  
15 and celebrated, some of that is not anybody's  
16 fault. It's just sometimes it doesn't get  
17 covered. And sometimes we don't do a good  
18 enough job of telling our story.

19 But I'm saying that to say that there are  
20 a multitude of things that we do to build  
21 relationships. But with the acknowledgment  
22 that you can never assume that you've arrived.  
23 It's also something, you know -- and arguably  
24 we had something just recently that was a

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1 tremendous setback for us. And I don't think  
2 anybody in this department who's got any sense  
3 would ever try to suggest anything other than  
4 that.

5 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: And I'm going to turn  
6 this over to Councilman Curtis Jones. Who  
7 would be -- I guess I would call it -- a chief  
8 in community engagement person that represents  
9 the Philadelphia Police Department? Is there  
10 such a position?

11 Because I know you have traditional  
12 policing, right, and then also when you're  
13 doing a lot of out of the box work that goes  
14 beyond policing such as the jobs initiative,  
15 the GED program, is there one particular person  
16 that helps deals with community engagement  
17 separate from yourself being CEO of the Police  
18 Department?

19 COMMISSIONER ROSS: So I'm going to give  
20 you a yes and a no. The no is that everybody  
21 is tasked with doing that, particularly people  
22 with rank. And the reason those programs were  
23 started is because, I believe, those commanders  
24 knew of our mantra to go do what you've got to

1 do, provided it's, obviously, legal and it  
2 doesn't conflict with any ethical issues, and  
3 clearly they don't.

4 But the yes would be would -- it would be  
5 Inspector Altovise Craighead. And so she's now  
6 the commander of community relations, a  
7 centralized unit. And she's done some very  
8 good things, but we don't want to rely on one  
9 person to do that.

10 The aim is to have as many people as  
11 possible engaged in building relationships and  
12 not just put that on the shoulders of one  
13 individual.

14 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you.

15 Councilman Curtis Jones?

16 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,  
17 Mr. Chairman.

18 The other day I was coming through my  
19 district. And one of the officers of the 19th  
20 was posted up on island on Market Street doing  
21 free haircuts for people who are homeless,  
22 people who were having job interviews, people  
23 who wanted to -- and most of them were men.  
24 And I wanted to make sure that on the flip side

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1 of the coin, that a lot of those activities go  
2 unheralded and done. I mean, we've had in our  
3 intervention basketball league, officers  
4 volunteer to be referees.

5 And so we appreciate that kind of constant  
6 input in community engagement. I want to say  
7 that on the record, that it does happen. It  
8 doesn't get a lot of press about it. But it  
9 does happen, and I wanted to say it on the  
10 record.

11 COMMISSIONER ROSS: Thank you.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: Couple of questions.  
13 Commissioner Perri, you talked about some of  
14 the efforts to do clean and seal vacant lots.

15 How much of that can be subcontracted out  
16 to locally based community groups that can do  
17 that same work, clean a lot -- do some of the  
18 infrastructure of nailing up or boarding up a  
19 vacant property? How much of that economic  
20 benefit can we give to some of the young men  
21 and women who might want to do that work,  
22 honestly?

23 COMMISSIONER PERRI: That's a good  
24 question, Councilman. What we have

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1 available -- both through L&I and with CLIP --  
2 there will be opportunities for folks to come  
3 on as temporary workers and perhaps transition  
4 into full time, full employment City workers --  
5 at least with the Department of Licenses and  
6 Inspections. And CLIP hires a lot of folks  
7 directly. So there will be employment  
8 opportunities.

9 We believe that if we can do the work  
10 ourselves and can control it, that we'll  
11 ultimately get the best, most efficient product  
12 that way.

13 So we're looking at employing people  
14 directly as opposed to subcontracting out that  
15 work.

16 COUNCILMAN JONES: So that's probably true  
17 on a cost effective dollar for dollar basis,  
18 but we also went to a model in procurement  
19 called greater value was it?

20 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Best value.

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: Best value, right? And  
22 best value to me is if I have a young man or  
23 woman fixing that house, there's a certain  
24 degree of responsibility and pride that comes

1 with that, so that we don't get it broken into  
2 time and time again. Because some of your  
3 clean and seals are multiple closing, because  
4 someone just took the liberty of tearing off  
5 what they did and then went back in.

6 If you engage some of the local groups to  
7 do that, a part of that charge is we're going  
8 to make sure it stays that way. And I'd like  
9 us to explore that possibility as a part of  
10 your engagement plan.

11 The second thing with that -- I mean, if  
12 you don't do it, I get why you don't do it.  
13 Let's look at the possibility of increasing our  
14 vision.

15 We want to do, in my district, a  
16 handyperson program where we actually take  
17 young men and women that are high risk, who is  
18 opportunity youth, and put them in a training  
19 program where they can actually get some  
20 practical experience that leads to a job,  
21 either with the City, either with the union or  
22 to be entrepreneurs themselves.

23 So we want to look at how we can plug that  
24 and remediate some of the vacancies and

1 trash-filled lots. So I'd like to explore that  
2 cost effectiveness.

3 Deputy Machining Director, of the  
4 31 million that we're putting out there --  
5 there was a figure, I think, around 700,000  
6 that's going to community based organizations;  
7 is that correct?

8 MS. HARLEY: There was a total of 700,000  
9 that we just gave out to over 47 community  
10 based organizations for grassroots work that  
11 they are doing.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: Can you give some  
13 description of some of that type of work?

14 MS. HARLEY: Sure. So the awards were  
15 between 5,000 and 20,000 -- was the maximum  
16 number of awards. And those numbers were just  
17 based on the dollar amounts and trying to  
18 spread it across as many folks as we could.

19 And it went for everything from what you  
20 would think of when you think of a traditional  
21 prevention plan in terms of trying to come up  
22 with programs that would take young people off  
23 of the street and give them something  
24 constructive to do.

1           In terms of recreational or sports-related  
2   activities to programs that are actually doing  
3   hard level intervention on the street, some of  
4   them are folks with, I'll call a lived  
5   experience, but that have criminal records or  
6   others things, but they have credibility in the  
7   neighborhood and are actually working with the  
8   young men in the neighborhood. So it runs the  
9   gamut across those 47 programs.

10           Now, we gave special consideration to  
11  programs that would hit the target population  
12  that we identified in the Roadmap, which are  
13  men and boys of color ages 16 to 34. We try to  
14  particularly look at those programs that could  
15  hit that more high risk offender.

16           When we look at the programs in the City,  
17  what we have been able to notice now is that we  
18  do not have a lot of programs that hit the  
19  highest risk offenders or for that older age  
20  range of the 25 to 34 year olds. So we did  
21  give some -- tried to give some deference to  
22  programs that directly impacted those areas.

23           COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: So as we start to  
24  think outside of the box, again, if we can get

1 subcontracting opportunities to community-based  
2 organizations, that creates a job.

3         But in the upcoming year or so, we're  
4 going to be dealing with census data and  
5 collecting that from middle neighborhoods to  
6 some impacted neighbors.

7         Can we create a relationship with the US  
8 Census Bureau to make sure that some of the  
9 areas where they might be a little reticent  
10 about going into, that we can get folk who are  
11 familiar with those communities recruited and  
12 moved in there, because it helps us on  
13 community block rent dollars as we count and  
14 get a full count of folk that are -- go where  
15 some folks are afraid to go.

16         So they have a unique kind of  
17 qualification that they can get into these  
18 harder to reach neighborhoods so if we can kind  
19 of plug that in.

20         You talked about summer job increases.

21         Can you tell me from what level to what  
22 level -- the last I heard, there were 10,000  
23 summer jobs that the City and our stakeholders  
24 organizations had, but there were 18,000

1    requests for work. How close are we to  
2    bridging that gap?

3            MS. HARLEY: I, to be honest, do not have  
4    those specific numbers here today. We can  
5    certainly supply them to you. And will get  
6    them from the Office of Workforce Development  
7    as well our Work Ready Programs.

8            I can tell you that the additional 2, 2.5  
9    million that we received from Tanner Funds --  
10   we work closely to make sure they align  
11   directly with this balance prevention kind of  
12   strategy.

13           And that again, we're trying to target  
14   those higher risk folks or folks we have not  
15   seen by doing the Roadmap and us coming  
16   together at the table as various City agencies,  
17   we've also tried to target and make sure, as we  
18   look at what resources are in what  
19   neighborhoods, that we made sure that special  
20   recruitment efforts were done in the areas that  
21   are experiencing the higher risk of shootings  
22   and homicide, and have made strides that we had  
23   not made before where the recruitment was low,  
24   which I, specifically, go into those areas and

1 try to look at certain high schools and other  
2 things to make sure the recruitment efforts  
3 were higher.

4 COUNCILMAN JONES: So I had an opportunity  
5 to the Real Time Crime Center. And it's right  
6 out of Star Wars. And I'm thankful that when  
7 we went originally to Baltimore, we came back  
8 with municipal envy because they -- only to  
9 find out that our system is, if not, better  
10 than theirs.

11 I think one of the challenges might be to  
12 be able to put virtual patrols with live eyes  
13 on hotspots.

14 In my District, I can tell you the top 10  
15 at risk corners, one of which I grew up on,  
16 54th and Berks between Berks and Montgomery is  
17 a killing field. Every now and then, and all  
18 too often, someone is going to be shot and/or  
19 killed there.

20 And we have cameras there, but what is our  
21 strategy to do virtual patrols in high instance  
22 time areas, and you know those better than me,  
23 where we can actually put live eyes working  
24 with boots on the ground to coordinate efforts?

1     Is there something within our plan?

2           COMMISSIONER ROSS: Well, being candid  
3     with you, we don't have a plan to cover it  
4     virtually like that, because we have,  
5     hopefully, so many cameras that we would just  
6     never have enough police officers anyway to do  
7     that.

8           So we do it on a modified basis where we  
9     have people monitor those cameras down there.  
10    But realistically speaking in managing  
11    expectations, as you know when you went down  
12    there, they don't have the capacity to be  
13    monitoring realtime every camera.

14        And in many instances, they're watching  
15    but they might get directed to something by  
16    virtue of intel that they get. But we don't  
17    have the capacity -- I don't know that any  
18    department does -- but I don't want to quote  
19    that -- but I'm not sure that anyone has it to  
20    watch every camera realtime and to be on top of  
21    it like that.

22        COUNCILMAN JONES: So I'm aware of the  
23    security risks, but can we find auxiliary  
24    retirees or people that can be trained and

1 certified to do that and find some pool of  
2 money?

3 Because particularly during the summer, we  
4 could probably cut down significantly on some  
5 of these -- because right now, some of these  
6 young guys, they know a camera is right there.

7 And still just conduct their business as if  
8 there was none.

9 And if we can coordinate that a little  
10 better, we might see a reduction in some of the  
11 violent acts that we have. And I don't know  
12 how to do it. I'm just throwing a question out  
13 for us to put our heads together to figure it  
14 out and take responsibility, financially, to  
15 get you some more resources so that we can do  
16 that.

17 COMMISSIONER ROSS: And it's a legitimate  
18 question. And it's not one that I'm in  
19 disagreement with.

20 As you know, you broached it initially in  
21 your initial statement, even about traffic.  
22 And as you know, both independent or together,  
23 the Council President and the mayor have talked  
24 about this traffic enforcement officer. And I

1 think you have heard publicly what the FOP  
2 stance is on that, so that's going to be a bit  
3 of a fight. I'm in support of it. It's not a  
4 novel concept. It's something that, as you  
5 know from traveling, that DC, Chicago, many  
6 other cities and New York have been doing this  
7 for years.

8 And it's absolutely a force multiplier.  
9 It's a way for you to leverage resources. In  
10 fact, I'm sure you've been multiple times, I  
11 know when you folks went, you got to New York  
12 City, you got to get right up on top of some of  
13 these traffic control officers to realize they  
14 are not police officers. So that means some of  
15 the guys who have intention of doing things  
16 they have no business doing might not know  
17 either.

18 And so I think it's a great idea. But,  
19 you know, the messaging coming out of there is  
20 sparking member work.

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: And finally,  
22 Mr. Chairman, these safe havens, for lack of a  
23 better word, places that we're extending  
24 hours -- there was a report about a coach in

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1 Frankford that opened his locker room up on  
2 Friday nights, let his young people that he  
3 coached in just so that they had a place to go  
4 play cards, be kids and be safe.

5 Do we have a map or grid of these  
6 opportunities, whether they are rec centers,  
7 community centers, that we can kind of City  
8 wide publicize so that young people know if I  
9 can make it to this center, there's some fun  
10 and there's some safety at that location?

11 MS. HARLEY: So we are in the process of  
12 mapping assets and resources across the City in  
13 the various neighborhoods so that we can see  
14 that.

15 I'm going to ask Theron Pride to come up.  
16 He's the Senior Director for Violence  
17 Prevention, who has been leading the charge for  
18 me in terms of working with our Parks and Rec  
19 Department around some other viable  
20 opportunities that we may be able to do, in  
21 terms of trying to increase some of the  
22 coverage.

23 MR. PRIDE: Good afternoon, Theron Pride  
24 Senior Director with Office Loss Prevention.

1           I appreciate the opportunity to come  
2 before the Committee. And just again to  
3 reiterate what Vanessa Garrett-Harley said was  
4 we are trying to do that in terms of asset  
5 mapping, working with our partners and police.  
6 We're building out a map of the City and  
7 blinking on those hotspots in the Pinpoint  
8 areas and looking to see what rec centers, what  
9 schools, what other community institutions we  
10 can turn to, to make sure they have hours and  
11 space that they can create, and open up for  
12 young people who might be at risk if they don't  
13 have the space. So that's a process that we  
14 started when we launched the plan.

15           And we hope to have some additional  
16 activity and programming at some of the rec  
17 centers that we've identified in these areas.

18           COUNCILMAN JONES: So we haven't  
19 identified those rec centers?

20           MR. PRIDE: So we're in the process right  
21 now of working with Parks and Recs looking at  
22 the Pinpoint area and seeing how we can pilot  
23 some additional programming -- in particular, a  
24 basketball league that would have extended

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1 hours during the week and on the weekend.

2 And Pinpoint areas where we know the rates  
3 of violence are high. And then look to recruit  
4 the young people that we know would be safer if  
5 they had this opportunity.

6 COUNCILMAN JONES: So summer is upon us.

7 So the clock isn't working in our favor.

8 MR. PRIDE: Absolutely. And I think  
9 already with the partnerships we've had with  
10 our implementation team and folks in the  
11 Administration, we're moving very quickly. We  
12 know even more so to get this up and running.

13 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,  
14 Mr. Chairman.

15 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you. I have a  
16 brief question, because I want to get this next  
17 Panel up. I'm going to also open it up to my  
18 colleagues to ask some questions. I also want  
19 to get this next Panel up, just based upon some  
20 of our panelists' schedules.

21 I just had one quick question for Vanessa  
22 regarding -- you said you have bi-weekly  
23 meetings with agency leaders to coordinate  
24 issue on gun violence.

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1           I just want to know what agencies are  
2        meeting biweekly strategizing on this issue?

3        Who's present at those meetings?

4           MS. HARLEY: So that is an executive level  
5        implementation team that we've built into the  
6        Roadmap to make sure that it didn't just become  
7        another piece of paper and that it would  
8        actually be implemented. And that's chaired by  
9        myself and Commissioner Ross.

10          We meet every other week. At that table  
11        is the Commissioner for Licenses and  
12        Inspections, Commissioner for the Health  
13        Department, Commissioner for the DHS, as  
14        juvenile justice comes under DHS,  
15        Superintendent Hite, as well as others from his  
16        staff at the School District -- is at the  
17        table.

18          We have folks there -- the head of the  
19        Office of Workforce Development and from the  
20        Office of Adult Education. Philadelphia Works  
21        is at the table. Others from the managing  
22        director's office, my counterpart in the social  
23        services arena is there, the Department of  
24        Behavioral Health. Commissioner David Jones is

1 at the table.

2 Pretty much in a myriad of folks from  
3 across the various City agencies so that we can  
4 start thinking about this in a different way  
5 and a collective way as to how we put this at  
6 the table.

7 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: What about the  
8 district attorney? Is he there?

9 MS. HARLEY: They are not at that team.  
10 And partially that was because when we  
11 initially started, it was an effort to try to  
12 get the City folks together and the various  
13 City departments.

14 And I think of the DA's office as being  
15 City but more quasi City, right, when it  
16 initially started. But we are having  
17 conversation with the District Attorney's  
18 Office, as well, about the plan and how we can  
19 partner together, additionally. So there are  
20 conversations that have been going on and are  
21 in the works.

22 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: And I only mention  
23 that simply for the fact that to me, I think  
24 it's all -- from a criminal justice standpoint,

1 it's all connected at the end of the day.

2 I was reading a book called -- you know  
3 Oakland? It's a case study in Oakland,  
4 California. They got gangs over there. They  
5 reduced their homicide gun violence rate by  
6 50 percent, right? And when I was reading this  
7 case study -- a lot of things we're already  
8 doing. But one key, critical component was  
9 that there were multiagency weekly meetings  
10 with all the key stakeholders closing, what we  
11 call, those gaps that you talked about in your  
12 testimony. And just making sure everybody  
13 knows who's on first, who's on second, who's on  
14 third so we can address this issue all together  
15 as one team moving forward.

16 And so that's something I wanted to pay  
17 close attention to. Because I think at the end  
18 of the day it's going to take a coordinated  
19 effort -- one for us to reduce this issue of  
20 gun violence. And so I just want to get an  
21 idea of who is meeting in those meetings.

22 I want to open this up. I want to start  
23 off by asking Maria Quinones-Sanchez and  
24 Councilwoman Cherelle Parker.

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1 MS. HARLEY: Councilman Jones, Theron

2 Pride just wanted to give you one point.

3 MR. PRIDE: That's a great example in  
4 terms of Oakland's ability to reduce their  
5 homicides by 50 percent. They did that over  
6 six years starting with an evidence-based model  
7 that they tried to implement in 2012.

8 But prior to 2012, they were -- had some  
9 failed starts as early as 2005 with this. And  
10 so this goes back to what you're saying in  
11 terms of you need to have everyone at the  
12 table. You have to have a coordinated effort,  
13 but you have to also have the long view. You  
14 have to work urgently. You have to be  
15 committed and have everyone there.

16 But as Oakland's story and that case study  
17 points to is that it does take time. And it  
18 took six years to get to that point. And it  
19 really engaged the faith-based community, as  
20 well. And we're trying to do that in our work.

21 We're also going to reach out not only to  
22 City partners, but community members and  
23 leaders, also, in the faith-based community.  
24 That's something that's also part of this work

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1 that we believe will get us where we need to  
2 be.

3 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: I want to ask just  
4 for my colleagues to just bear with me for a  
5 second, if you don't mind.

6 I have to request our district attorney --  
7 but I'm also going to ask him, because it's  
8 such a critical issue, Mr. Larry Krasner. And  
9 I know you have a schedule, but nevertheless,  
10 because this is a significant crisis that we're  
11 dealing with, to kind of accommodate our  
12 schedule, as well.

13 I'm going to ask you to come on up and do  
14 your testimony. I'm going to ask for the other  
15 individuals to please stick around. But I just  
16 want -- after you give your testimony,  
17 Mr. District Attorney, to still stick around as  
18 long as you can, just for the simple fact that  
19 we are in a crisis. And all hands have to be  
20 on deck as we address this issue of gun  
21 violence. But we will accommodate you to give  
22 your testimony right now.

23 MR. KRASNER: Yes, Councilman, thank you  
24 very much. I know that Brendan O'Malley, who

1 is representing the Attorney General's office  
2 as part of our gun violence task force will be  
3 up here in a moment to speak -- I actually was  
4 hoping to hear what he said, but I'm sure he  
5 will correctly represent the Attorney General's  
6 view of all that when he comes up. I would  
7 like to say that our head of the gun violence  
8 task force, Jude Conroy, who has been in the  
9 DA's office his entire career, who I have known  
10 and been in accordance with can't be here  
11 today. But we do have JT Tartikoff, who's been  
12 with the gun violence task force a long time  
13 here and with us.

14 There's a few points I would really like  
15 to elevate, but we have to put this in a proper  
16 frame before I start ticking them off. And I  
17 will tick them off to respect everyone's time.

18 We have to put this in the frame of the  
19 reality. When New York City is bragging about  
20 its decline in homicides in Manhattan, the  
21 price of the average home in Manhattan is \$1.2  
22 million. When Oakland is bragging about a  
23 decline in homicides, the last time I checked,  
24 the price of a home in Oakland is over

1       \$700,000. And the average price of a home in  
2       Philadelphia, last time I checked, was on the  
3       order of about \$140,000. That makes a  
4       difference. And anyone who tells you it  
5       doesn't is misleading you, because the reality  
6       is, we are in the poorest in the 10 largest  
7       City's. And at certain periods of time, it has  
8       been the most violent of the 10 largest cities.  
9       And that is no mistake. And that goes back  
10      decades. And it has everything to do with the  
11      proper way in which to view all of this, which  
12      is that these issues are structural.

13           I'm not the only way saying that. Those  
14      are the comments of our Police Commissioner in  
15      the press and recently. They cannot be solved  
16      simply by arresting our way out of it.

17           People who look at this as a cynical,  
18      political moment, when they can jump up and say  
19      I'm the reincarnation of Frank Rizzo and I got  
20      the solution, we're going to crack skulls and  
21      solve it, well, there's nothing to support  
22      that.

23           The fact is, even if we look at the last  
24      three years of the Administration of Lynne

1 Abraham, who dubbed herself the queen of death,  
2 and was all about retribution, was all about  
3 conviction at any cost, was all about mass  
4 incarceration. You'll find that even today,  
5 the average, at this time of year for homicides  
6 in the last three years of her Administration,  
7 was a little bit higher than where we are now.  
8 That's the framing where we have to see this.

9 Yes, as one of you so eloquently  
10 articulated, get jobs, economic opportunity,  
11 jobs, education, people coming out of high  
12 school, people coming out with hope.

13 When you're a 16 year old who has hope,  
14 who sees a future, who wants to finish school,  
15 who sees a job, who thinks you're going to live  
16 past the age of 30, you're not so drawn to a  
17 gun in your right hand. When you grew up in a  
18 neighborhood where the men weren't all missing  
19 because they were all locked up, you are more  
20 likely to see hope.

21 So if we're going to talk about real  
22 solutions here, as opposed to being back  
23 sitting here in 10 years when there's another  
24 spike of violent crime, if we are to do that --

1 and I should actually correct that -- when  
2 there's another spike of shootings and  
3 homicide, because we have actually seen a  
4 reduction in violent crime over the last year  
5 and a half.

6 We'll just be back here doing this again.  
7 This is not the first anti-violence plan that's  
8 existed. There's another one. It's about 15,  
9 18 years ago. And I don't say that in any way  
10 to downgrade it, because I think this is  
11 incredibly important. And I would be delighted  
12 to be included at every step with this  
13 antiviolence plan, but that's the reality.  
14 These issue are structural. They are huge.  
15 They are the result of decades the City not  
16 solving issues of poverty.

17 (Round of applause.)

18 MR. KRASNER: None of that takes away from  
19 the reality that every single one of us has  
20 personal responsibility to every single one of  
21 us.

22 As I even know that you have privately, or  
23 maybe even publicly, talked about every single  
24 one of us has made bad decisions and has been

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1 personally responsible for it, had the chance  
2 to go forward and go a different direction,  
3 and, you know, have been able to do so. So I  
4 don't minimize that.

5 Now, let's talk about what we can do right  
6 now. Because politicians -- and I guess, to  
7 some extent, we're all politicians -- we have  
8 to answer to voters right now. We have to  
9 answer to constituents right now. The big  
10 picture is what I said, that we need to change  
11 that structure. We need to change all of that.  
12 But the small picture is, how can we make it  
13 better right now? I will tick these things  
14 off.

15 There was a question earlier about whether  
16 having 72 officers who posted outrageously  
17 discriminatory and brutal posting being off the  
18 street has an impact, yeah. It's a good  
19 impact. It's a good impact --

20 (Round of applause.)

21 MR. KRASNER: It's a good impact, because  
22 those officers who do not represent the average  
23 police officer in the City -- let's not forget.  
24 We have 6,500 active officers. We only have

1 330 engaging in this kind of conduct. Those  
2 statements represent a range of bad speech,  
3 right? But -- that is the number out of 6500.  
4 But those 72 people, number one, will not be  
5 missed, because they increase distrust. And  
6 when you have distrust between and the  
7 community and the police, it is harder to solve  
8 homicides. It's harder to solve shootings.  
9 It's harder to have a good clearance rate,  
10 because if the community does not trust the  
11 police -- and this is just as true of the DA's  
12 office -- then the community will not engage.

13 So that, I suggest respectfully, is the  
14 right thing to do. I suggest that the  
15 Commissioner is doing the right thing in, once  
16 again, trying to bring integrity to his  
17 department and restore the public's faith in  
18 the incredibly important and laudable job of  
19 being law enforcement. These are the issues  
20 where we can work together, and I hope we will  
21 work together.

22 I need seizure analyses. I've been a  
23 lawyer in this City for over 30 years. I was  
24 in criminal court four to five days a week.

1 And during my entire Administration, and for a  
2 few months before, we have had to deal with the  
3 reality that we do not have seizure analyses to  
4 prove possession of drug cases. And when we  
5 get seizure analyses to prove possession with  
6 the intent to deliver or deliver a controlled  
7 substance, we get them months later than we  
8 should. This is an issue that the City has  
9 been aware of since the beginning of this  
10 Administration. I'm not going to tell you that  
11 it's somehow all the City's fault.

12 I know that the Police Commissioner has  
13 said publicly that he does not have the money  
14 to fix this. I know there are issues that  
15 arose in the beginning, because fentanyl  
16 presents testing issue. There are some issues  
17 around danger, although a bit exaggerated.  
18 There are other issues around the quality of  
19 the test. Most of the field tests for fentanyl  
20 will come back inconclusive.

21 But what I'm telling you is that in 30  
22 years as a lawyer, there was never a problem in  
23 Philadelphia getting a seizure analysis so a  
24 prosecutor can proceed with a case or prove

1 with a case. We do not have them. It is  
2 absurd to ask us to be in a position to hold  
3 people accountable and have to wait months and  
4 months and months unnecessarily for seizure  
5 analyses for cases involving possession with  
6 the intent to deliver and delivery.

7 I've been clear on this point with  
8 Mr. Abernathy. I've been clear on this point  
9 for a very long time. And I have, once again,  
10 had the chance to remind the Mayor that this is  
11 crucial. There's no reason for this.

12 The excuses I have gotten have ranged  
13 from, Well, I'll look for a vendor and then  
14 nobody got back to me. And the next excuse I  
15 got was, Well, maybe it's got to be done by  
16 city workers when we all know the truth.  
17 Because we have met with the chem lab. The  
18 truth is, the chem lab can't immediately  
19 expand. So I need seizure analyses.

20 We have a connection between killings and  
21 the drug trade. In the middle of an opioid  
22 crisis. The idea that we're supposed to be  
23 asked to make these bricks without straw is  
24 absurd. That's point one.

1           Point two, we actually think it's very  
2           exciting to hear from the Department that they  
3           want to increase police presence. It makes  
4           perfect sense by every criminological standard.

5           And fortunately I can tell you good news,  
6           which I was approached by both the Commissioner  
7           and the Mayor last year asking us to have more  
8           police on the street by taking them out of  
9           court. There was a whole lot of wholly  
10           unnecessary subpoenaing being done in the prior  
11           Administration of police. Things as ridiculous  
12           as subpoenaing, you know, all 19 officers  
13           involved in a homicide case for the entire week  
14           of the case, when they were only needed for a  
15           day or two each, right? So we corrected a lot  
16           of that.

17           But there's one serious area that we're  
18           trying to correct now. And I'll tell you that  
19           the commissioner and I have already spoken  
20           about this. He's looking into it. People in  
21           our offices have been working on it, so I hope  
22           we'll have a good resolution.

23           But what happens right now is we still  
24           have one serious problem, which is that there's

1 a process of self-subpoena in which the  
2 officers, at the very first listing of a  
3 preliminary hearing, are self-subpoenaed,  
4 usually, I believe, by their detectives.

5 We took a look at one of our courtrooms.  
6 There was 78 officers subpoenaed into that  
7 court room one morning. 46 of those subpoenas  
8 were unnecessary. That's one courtroom. We're  
9 talking about 72 people around the City. Well,  
10 we got about eight, 10, depends on the day,  
11 courtrooms where we're subpoenaing officers.  
12 Let's take 46 unnecessary officers, and let's  
13 put them back where they can be on the street  
14 where that overtime money can go to those  
15 patrols.

16 You know, I would not presume to get into  
17 the land of the Police Department, but I think  
18 it is -- every bit of criminology says it's a  
19 wonderful idea to have more police presence out  
20 there. And this is a way to do it without even  
21 spending anymore money. So I'm looking forward  
22 to cooperation in that regard.

23 The public is not aware of this, but I  
24 should tell you that the Court System, the

1      Public Defender and I have been in discussions,  
2      and they have been very positive, about taking  
3      our shooting cases and putting them into the  
4      same court room where the homicide preliminary  
5      hearings are heard.

6           So in other words, do all of these  
7      preliminary hearings in which someone is  
8      injured in a shooting, and some people are  
9      killed in a shooting, put them into the same  
10     courtrooms where both sides can have the  
11     capable attorneys they need, where we're not  
12     running from room to room, where we have a more  
13     systematic way of treating victims and  
14     witnesses and protecting them, where both sides  
15     can have things move along quickly.

16           There's a great importance, when you have  
17     a shooting case, in being able to resolve it in  
18     nine months instead of 18. Because anyone else  
19     who is out there and who knows what happens  
20     when you shoot people, there are a lot more  
21     concerns about the certainty of being caught  
22     and punished then there are about the amount of  
23     time in jail. So if we can expedite that to a  
24     shorter period of time, which is what this

1 would do, then we'll be in a position for the  
2 lesson to be learned among the friends of  
3 whoever it was that fired that shot and injured  
4 somebody else.

5 I can tell you that the public, private  
6 partnership is something that we're extremely  
7 interested in for over a year. We have been  
8 trying to provide assistance as we could with  
9 Chris Woods, who is present out of 1199C. He  
10 has been working with other union officials on  
11 possibilities for re-entry, but also job  
12 programs for at risk youth and things of that  
13 sort. I would encourage anyone in the City, in  
14 government or not, who is interested in being a  
15 part of that, please be in contact with  
16 Mr. Woods. And understand that he has the full  
17 support of the DA's office in efforts to try to  
18 utilize all of that.

19 Polymer guns, this is a huge issue.  
20 There's no immediate fix on this, but a polymer  
21 gun is a plastic gun. It's what they call an  
22 80 percent gun.

23 Basically, if you go to the Oaks Gun Show,  
24 what you can do is at one table you can buy a

1 plastic gun. And you can go to the next table  
2 and you can buy the metal barrel, the metal  
3 trigger mechanism and a few other pieces. And  
4 you can go home and you can fix it up.

5 There's no serial number on that plastic  
6 gun. Background checks are not required. So  
7 guess who's buying these things? Who needs a  
8 plastic gun? And they are not buying them one  
9 on the a time. I have specific information  
10 that there are instances of people buying  
11 dozens or scores of these plastic guns.

12 Putting them in a duffle bag, pulling out a wad  
13 of cash, putting the cash down, and walking  
14 out.

15 These are guns that are intended for  
16 crime. Nobody needs a plastic gun. And it's  
17 becoming a bigger and bigger problem in  
18 Philadelphia.

19 My information is that the Phila Police  
20 Department collected 12 of them in 2018. They  
21 collected 43 in 2019 so far. And these guns  
22 are plentiful. They are an end run around the  
23 already insufficient federal and state laws we  
24 have to protect us from this kind of gun

1 violence. We need a solution for that.

2 Our Probation and Parole departments are  
3 woefully over burdened. And that has an  
4 impact, because when your caseload is twice as  
5 big as it should be, it's very hard to focus on  
6 the most dangerous offenders. We have been  
7 trying to work with Probation and Parole since  
8 August. We've been trying to reduce their  
9 rolls. We've been trying to put those  
10 probation and parole officers in a position  
11 where they can do their best work. And this is  
12 no bad reflection on them, but we have hampered  
13 every step of the way.

14 Probation and Parole has refused to  
15 identify to us categories of individuals who  
16 have been successful on probation and parole  
17 who can be removed from those rolls.

18 Let us understand that Philadelphia has on  
19 the order of slightly under 40,000 people on  
20 supervision. About one of every 22 adults in  
21 the City of Philadelphia, when you walk down  
22 the street, is currently under probation or  
23 parole supervision.

24 New York City, the whole thing, 12,000

1 people -- the whole thing, all of those  
2 boroughs. Our rate of supervision is somewhere  
3 around 20 or 25 times higher than New York.  
4 That is an unacceptable situation.

5 And it is no wonder then that we have  
6 recidivism rates for mid-level and high-level  
7 offenders, that according to the most recent  
8 study I saw, are close to 50 percent within two  
9 years. We need to break the log jam, the  
10 roadblock, with Probation and Parole not being  
11 willing to give up the info to get the  
12 unnecessary people off the role so we can focus  
13 on the people whose attention is required.

14 Focused deterrents, yes, we are in. We  
15 are in as long as the carrot is as good or  
16 better than the stick. And that's because  
17 that's the only way it works. That's not my  
18 opinion. That's the opinion of every person in  
19 the Philadelphia Police Department I've dealt  
20 with who examined the use of focused deterrents  
21 previously.

22 And no, it can't also become some kind of  
23 extremist, heavy handed thing, where we're  
24 going to punish grandmom just because the

1 grandkid did something. It's got to be fair or  
2 we're going to drive this wedge, once again,  
3 between law enforcement and the community.  
4 We're not going to be able to solve crimes.

5 I have only two more things to say here on  
6 my list. I promised to rip through it, and I  
7 will.

8 We are doing something in the DA's Office  
9 that was done in the DA's Office previously.  
10 It's called cooperation. It means when you  
11 have someone who's been involved in a serious  
12 incident and you call them in and you offer  
13 them incentives to get them to give you  
14 information -- we have solved homicides  
15 strictly on the strength of the fact that there  
16 is some trust, that if people come in and they  
17 talk about other people killing people or they  
18 come in and talk about other people dealing  
19 guns, serious crimes of that sort, that there  
20 will be some kind of -- there will be some kind  
21 of reward, some kind of reduction for their  
22 accepting responsibility in giving up the  
23 information.

24 Well, that kind of situation only exists

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1 when you have the criminal defense bar that  
2 trusts you enough and the community, the  
3 mothers of these individuals, that trust the  
4 DA's Office enough that they say, All right.  
5 Do it. Go in there and tell them what you did.  
6 Tell them what other people did -- know that  
7 they'll be some reward for that just the same  
8 way the Feds have done it so successfully for  
9 so long. If you substantially cooperate, that  
10 we will be able to do something. And we intend  
11 to continue doing that, but it has already  
12 borne fruit and been successful.

13 Finally, I just want to say this. We  
14 requested more money in our budget. And we  
15 requested it for a lot of things. One of the  
16 things we requested was we wanted to double our  
17 drug prosecution unit, which had done wire  
18 taps, to dismantle a 20 year drug organization  
19 at Kip and Cambria. 67 arrests of mid and high  
20 level drug dealers, father and son drug  
21 organization, that was passed down.

22 We're not talking about picking on the  
23 18-year-old kid who will be selling in the  
24 morning, and if you arrest him, there will be

1 another kid selling in the afternoon, which  
2 does nothing, we took the whole organization  
3 down. The only thing that we didn't take down  
4 was the international source at that time,  
5 okay? All we needed was some more  
6 Spanish-speaking detectives, a little bit more  
7 money.

8 But when we came to Council and we asked  
9 for an increase of about \$3 million in our  
10 budget, instead what we walked away with was a  
11 \$3 million reduction in our budget, a  
12 reduction.

13 When we came to Council and we said we  
14 needed money for DNA, because every time we  
15 have an innocent person in jail, we have a  
16 guilty who went free and feels emboldened. We  
17 need to increase the role of DNA in order to  
18 make sure we have the right people. We didn't  
19 get that either. In fact, what we got was a  
20 reduction of \$3 million.

21 Now, I have spoken to many of you -- and  
22 there are several other plans and programs that  
23 we would really like to push, that we think  
24 could have a tremendous impact on crime,

1 generally. And I've spoken to many of you  
2 about it. I think that we're all on the same  
3 page, that that needs to be rectified in  
4 September and I will be back, but I do want you  
5 all to understand that if we're going to ask  
6 the District Attorney's Office to do its best  
7 work, and we are doing the best work we  
8 possibly can, we're going to need resources.  
9 We're going to need seizure analyses. We're  
10 going to need funding for the kinds of units  
11 when we have this intertwined opioid crisis  
12 with this crisis of violence, can work together  
13 effectively to do this.

14 It is not enough that during this  
15 Administration, violent crime is down 3  
16 percent. And it is. That is not enough,  
17 because we cannot tolerate this level of  
18 homicide. We cannot tolerate this level of  
19 shooting. It is not enough that during this  
20 Administration that crime overall is down 1  
21 percent. It's not enough.

22 It's not an answer for the people who live  
23 in the neighborhoods who are being victimized,  
24 whose kids are being traumatized, who are

1 suffering through this, it is not enough.

2 This DA's office is going to work with,  
3 not only those at this table, but everyone in  
4 this room who is willing to work with us. The  
5 reality is that while we have to correct these  
6 structural issues, if we're to have long-term  
7 solutions, there are things that we can do  
8 right now. We all need to do that working  
9 together as the two of you have mentioned.

10 Thank you very much.

11 (Round of applause.)

12 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you. We're  
13 going to defer our comments as co-Chairs and  
14 allow our colleagues to begin their line of  
15 questioning.

16 I'm going to start with Councilwoman Maria  
17 Quinones-Sanchez.

18 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank you. Thank  
19 you.

20 I won't ask the DA any questions this  
21 morning, because he will be participating this  
22 evening at 5:30, as we have another public  
23 hearing around the opioid and the relationship  
24 between opioids and some of the uptake in

1 violence.

2 First of all, I want to thank all of the  
3 folks who are here. I think everyone here  
4 sincerely cares. And we've been working hard  
5 at this problem.

6 For the Police Commissioner in particular,  
7 for District Council people, we develop these  
8 relationships with our captains and our  
9 commanding officers. And unfortunately, we  
10 learn over time that captains do the best they  
11 can with what they have.

12 In light of the fact that we're doing this  
13 emergency declaration and the Mayor has made a  
14 commitment to really make investments, this is  
15 investments in public safety not talking about  
16 restorative investments in neighborhoods, which  
17 is a whole separate conversation.

18 We all know that the police contract  
19 allows for police to take vacation during this  
20 time. And it's very, very frustrating for me  
21 to complain to a captain or commanding officer  
22 about things that happened in the neighborhood,  
23 when I know his census is down. I know we  
24 removed 73 people from the street.

1           How do I and you and all of us assure  
2        people that the combination of vacation time,  
3        the benching of people on the street, that we  
4        are going to have a full cadre of police  
5        officers in these neighborhoods and in these  
6        hotspots, particularly because we know that  
7        it's going to take massive overtime if we're  
8        going to do it correctly?

9           COMMISSIONER ROSS: Well, thank you for  
10      acknowledging it's contractual for the  
11      summertime. That's been since I was on this  
12      job. This is not a new concept. My friend and  
13      predecessor, Ford Heart(ph), to change the  
14      contract. The best we could do was start it a  
15      little earlier in May for brand new police  
16      officers. That's it.

17           I mean, when I came on and all these folks  
18      over here -- it was even a more condensed  
19      period than that. That is a troubling issue  
20      that -- as I have learned from traveling and  
21      being in the company of my colleagues, that  
22      you're right. In many instances, the summer  
23      vacations are spread out over the 12 months.  
24      That is something, quite frankly, I would love

1 to have some impact on. But many police  
2 commissioners have tried, to include this one.

3 As I said before about the 72, that is an  
4 action that was taken. I didn't want those  
5 posts to happen, but they did. I got to do  
6 something.

7 And in the meantime, until we finish our  
8 investigation, which won't be protracted, we  
9 will be -- as I said, that investigation will  
10 be conducted in stages. Those officers who are  
11 capable and able will go back in stages. So  
12 it's not like all 72 will be out on the street  
13 or off the street forever. There are some who  
14 will never return to the street. That's  
15 neither here nor there.

16 You know that we've added officers to your  
17 division in particular, and it's not just  
18 yours, but yours in particular since you raised  
19 the question. You know you just got a  
20 significant number of officers to the 25th  
21 District. The largest complement, actually,  
22 from the last class, as well as people you've  
23 gotten in the 24th.

24 And so one of the benefits of not having a

1 struggle like some of the departments are  
2 having in hiring people is we are able to staff  
3 our department. You even heard me say that one  
4 of the things that I'm really not asking the  
5 Mayor for beyond where we are now is more  
6 manpower. We're asking for additional  
7 resources, but that's from the business  
8 community. Because you reach a finite amount  
9 of resources where the City just doesn't have  
10 it. And so because there are more departments  
11 than just the Police Department -- and I would  
12 argue even some who need the money just as  
13 much.

14 We have your division staff, but you know,  
15 of course, too, it's not just staff with  
16 officers from East Division, a staff of  
17 people -- narcotic officers are staples there.  
18 They're there all the time as well as other  
19 officers. You're going to be seeing even more  
20 on feet beats as these officers from the 25th  
21 transition out of their officer training  
22 schooling, if you will.

23 So I would argue that no chief will ever  
24 say that they have enough. But you do reach a

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1 point where you have to be reasonable about it.  
2 I can't come to you and say we have 65, 25 --  
3 plus, it was actually 75 is what we're  
4 budgeting for. It's 65, 75 now. I can't just  
5 keep coming and saying give me the same amount  
6 of cops that we had in the 70's, 8,000. Quite  
7 frankly, we don't have the same population that  
8 we had. I hope to get back to 2,000,000 maybe  
9 for the City, but that's, also, what the  
10 population was when we had 8,000 police  
11 officers. Those days are over.

12 But we think we have enough officers under  
13 the circumstances. We always have people off  
14 the street for any number of reasons --

15 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: I get that. I just  
16 want to get to a place that this summer there  
17 is a recognition that because of the uptick,  
18 and obviously we're in the epicenter, that we  
19 are not -- to use the term, we're not gun shy  
20 about putting the resources necessary in  
21 neighborhoods, right?

22 I don't want to find myself in a situation  
23 wherein the 24th, in the 25th, or anywhere in  
24 the City for that matter, that we have one car

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1 in a quadrant, right?

2 And so what I'm saying to you is I need --  
3 this Council, I know all of my colleagues -- we  
4 want to know what, over time, is it going to  
5 take to make sure that our district commanders  
6 have the resources that they need, right?

7 Because for folks in the neighborhood,  
8 when they come downtown and they see 40 police  
9 officers around Dillworth Plaza but there's not  
10 one in the neighborhood, that's a problem. We  
11 can't explain that, right?

12 So tell us what you need. And let us be  
13 sure that in the summer, we do a recognition of  
14 the limitations with the contract so that we  
15 have better coverage. Look --

16 COMMISSIONER ROSS: Can you remember that  
17 overtime conversation next budget hearing? As  
18 long as you remember that part, because we  
19 don't have any -- so I got to take a little  
20 issue with you thinking I'm gun shy about  
21 putting people on the street. We're not.

22 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: No, no. What I'm  
23 saying is, first of all, we always have the  
24 overtime. I never complain about overtime,

1 because I'm the one who needs it in the  
2 neighborhood. So I'm not the one. That's not  
3 me.

4 But what I want to ensure folks, this  
5 summer in particular as summer ticks up, and  
6 the beauty about having parks renovated, there  
7 are more and more people out in the street.

8 And that is a good thing.

9 I just want to make sure that in our  
10 neighborhoods that if you say to us -- because  
11 you know you break down your overtime by units,  
12 service, transportation -- that you say to us  
13 in the neighborhoods for us to get this right,  
14 this is what we're going to need. And that you  
15 do that in a way that you didn't blink about  
16 it, because it's going to be hugely important  
17 in us winning public trust and us demonstrating  
18 to people that we really have a commitment  
19 about quality of life in the neighborhood.

20 I'm lending you my support, but I want to  
21 make sure that happens. I don't want to talk  
22 to a commanding officer and have him tell me he  
23 don't got a car out in the quadrants.

24 COMMISSIONER ROSS: Well, I think the

1      deputies and the chiefs behind me will tell you  
2      that that is already out there. And that's  
3      what we did relative to extending tours. And  
4      it's something we've had to do for a long time  
5      on certain days of the week, which I won't say  
6      publicly because other people watch TV and I  
7      don't want them to know what our manpower is.

8           But we are not at all apprehensive about  
9      doing that. And where we need to spend money,  
10     we will. We will also mandate that it's done  
11     responsibly, though. I can't have people  
12     thinking it's a black hole and that they can  
13     spend money just because. So we believe in  
14     both in that delicate balance and we will  
15     always do that.

16           But rest assure, we're not afraid of stuff  
17     like that.

18           COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: I appreciate that.  
19     And then lastly, because I know everybody wants  
20     a round, and I want to be respectful to my  
21     colleagues.

22           For Vanessa, could you provide to the  
23     Chair the listing of the organizations you  
24     funded in the neighborhood? We keep having

1 this conversation. We've spent the last 10, 11  
2 years figuring out how we restore some very  
3 pivotal grassroots, very neighborhood-based  
4 initiatives that we used to fund, where there  
5 was the 300 Parent Truancy Officers, to the  
6 curfew centers. I mean, I can give you a  
7 laundry list of community investments we had  
8 that after 2008 and 2009, we dismantled and  
9 we've got restored. And 700,000 is a drop in  
10 the bucket.

11 (Round of applause.)

12 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: To the extent that  
13 to the organizations you've funded help us  
14 cover some gaps -- I know Councilwoman Bass has  
15 really been harping on us extending our hours  
16 at our rec centers.

17 To the extent that there are additional  
18 gaps because we didn't find partners -- because  
19 remember, we put them out of business -- to the  
20 extent that we didn't find some of those  
21 partners in the area, if you could share that  
22 with all of us, we want to make sure that  
23 whether through our rec centers, our libraries,  
24 and some of our community stakeholders, that we

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1 try to provide as many activities as possible,  
2 engagement activities.

3 I give kudos to all my colleagues. I know  
4 all of us do park events and evenings and movie  
5 nights out, but we have to put all of those  
6 initiatives on steroids this summer to keep  
7 people engaged.

8 And so if you see gaps that we need to  
9 fill, please tell us.

10 MS. HARLEY: I will do that. And we will  
11 definitely supply the list of the 47 that we  
12 awarded. It was also attached, I believe, to  
13 the press release that went out, probably a  
14 week or so ago. We'll get that for you.

15 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: I want the gap.

16 MS. HARLEY: Understood.

17 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: I know some folks  
18 just didn't have capacity, as you know, 5,000  
19 to 25,000 is not a whole lot. And you and I  
20 have talked about what are we asking folks to  
21 give us in return. I want to know where the  
22 gaps are that we need to fill.

23 MS. HARLEY: Will do.

24 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank you. Thank

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1 you.

2 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: I would like to do  
3 this in terms of this round of questioning. I  
4 want to go by, based upon people who showed up  
5 first.

6 But do key individuals, in terms of my  
7 colleagues, have specific questions for  
8 District Attorney Larry Krasner? He's on a  
9 tight schedule. If you have a specific line of  
10 questioning for him, I want to defer to you at  
11 this particular time so we -- Councilman Allan  
12 Domb?

13 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
14 For District Attorney Krasner, what is the cost  
15 of the seizure analysis?

16 MR. KRASNER: I don't know. I can have my  
17 staff figure that out. It may depend on which  
18 substance it is and how much is being tested.  
19 But I cannot tell you exactly offhand.

20 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay. And you feel  
21 that's important for us to provide to you?

22 MR. KRASNER: It is absolutely essential  
23 in the possession with intent to deliver cases  
24 and in the delivery cases. In other words, in

1 the drug dealing cases that we get it. And  
2 that we get it as early as possible. We're  
3 wasting all kinds of other cost on keeping  
4 people in jail forever while it shows up.

5 It's also important that we get it on the  
6 possession cases, not merely because we must  
7 have it in order to prove the case if we're  
8 prosecuting, but also it becomes a leverage  
9 that we can use to try to assist people into  
10 some form of treatment. If we have no  
11 leverage, we can't do anything with that.

12 And then the other point is this -- and  
13 it's really a very important point. There's a  
14 lot of knowledge that can be taken from a  
15 seizure analysis that tells you things like  
16 purity, as to whether or not you're close to  
17 the source. It's pertinent.

18 And we're dealing with, obviously, a  
19 terrible crisis of three and four people dying  
20 every day from -- primarily from fentanyl,  
21 really.

22 Sometimes analyses can be done for things  
23 like purity, that can actually save lives or  
24 that a particular colored bag is killing

1 people. And that's a whole more complex  
2 discussion. But some of these things can have  
3 tremendous impact, even on aspects like that.

4 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay. Well, if you  
5 could provide the cost to the Chair, that would  
6 be great. Thank you.

7 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Councilwoman Cherelle  
8 Parker?

9 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank you,  
10 Mr. Chairman. And good afternoon to each of  
11 you.

12 While not just specifically for District  
13 Attorney Krasner, I would like him,  
14 Mr. Chairman, to respond to the question on the  
15 record.

16 Let me just start by thanking each of you  
17 for not coming here today proclaiming that  
18 there would be a single silver bullet sort of  
19 strategy to rid our City of these challenges,  
20 but noting for the record that they are complex  
21 and it's going to take us working together in  
22 order to solve them. They were not a room  
23 expert AOPs today, articulators of the problem  
24 presenting those solution.

1           But District Attorney Krasner, you struck  
2        a chord with me, because you mentioned a  
3        constituency that we don't hear about often  
4        when you said grand moms.

5           Having been raised by my grandparents,  
6        there is nothing more painful than watching a  
7        young man -- and Commissioner Ross, you'll  
8        remember this case. He was a student at one of  
9        our local charter schools in our area. He was  
10       a star athlete. He was on his way to college  
11       and was shot and murdered. And the two  
12       gentlemen who were responsible were eventually  
13       caught.

14       The call that no one saw was the call from  
15       the grandmother of one of the young men who  
16       actually was involved in the shooting saying  
17       Cherelle, I did the best I could in trying to  
18       raise him, but I didn't know what else I could  
19       do.

20       I know that may sound like a very simple  
21       line, that we don't hear about that makes it on  
22       the news, because a lot of our young people are  
23       being raised by someone other than their  
24       biological parents. We refer to it in Social

1 and Human Services as kinship care.

2 My question to you is that, when you  
3 talked about earlier reaching that demographic  
4 between the ages of 16 and 34 -- we've heard  
5 from law enforcement, our commanding officers,  
6 that many of those who get engaged later in  
7 violent crime started, District Attorney  
8 Krasner and Commissioner, at a very young age  
9 with nonviolent crimes

10 My question is this, has there ever been  
11 any intersectionality between the DA's office,  
12 the Police Department, Social and Human  
13 Services for young people who get engaged in  
14 the system and being able to communicate to, if  
15 not their parents, their caretakers?

16 They've entered into the system. We want  
17 to let you know that these opportunities are  
18 available. If there are employment  
19 opportunities that Councilman Jones talked  
20 about, the SAT prep program -- all of the  
21 organizations that receive the \$700,000 in  
22 funding.

23 Those that are currently operating, do we,  
24 from a preventive standpoint, find a way to get

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1 that information into the hands of the people  
2 who are not doing Google searches, to read the  
3 press release to find out what organizations  
4 were funded?

5 MR. KRASNER: I thank you so much for  
6 asking that question. It gives me a perfect  
7 opportunity to talk about some things that we  
8 do and explain how much we would like to do  
9 more.

10 Present with me here today Tarek Glasgow,  
11 Tarek can you raise your hand?

12 (Hand raised.)

13 MR. KRASNER: Tarek works very steadily  
14 out of the DA's Office, but in connection with  
15 our gun violence task force on various  
16 different programs, some to reach 16 year olds  
17 and some to reach five year olds who will  
18 become 16 year old soon enough. And we better  
19 deal with issues before they get there.

20 He is, for example, involved with our  
21 reset program, which is resources, employment  
22 skills, educational training program. He works  
23 with Bitty Ball. This is little kids running  
24 around with basketballs between two and ten

1 years of age, mentors who are mentoring them,  
2 between 16 to 28 years of age in connection  
3 with Dickson High School. And he also is  
4 working with the Citywide Junior Mentors with  
5 Ebony Wortham from my office with the Police  
6 Department Advisory Council.

7 An attorney in my office by the name of  
8 Kwambina Coker is working with the Youth  
9 Violence Reduction Partnership on a project  
10 where the Probation Department, the Police and  
11 the DA's Office try to identify young people  
12 who are most at risk of being killed --

13 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Sorry. Say the  
14 departments. It's Probation, Police.

15 MR. KRASNER: Probation, Police and the  
16 DA's office all work together to identify young  
17 people most at risk of being killed or killing  
18 or injuring others.

19 We also work with George Mosey and the  
20 Office of Violence Protection on this problem,  
21 because it is that kind of a holistic solution  
22 that is actually going to accomplish something.  
23 I could go on and on about various other  
24 programs that we have --

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1                   COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Is there -- DA  
2                   Krasner, is there a tangible -- and I know I  
3                   heard that we're working on mapping out the new  
4                   organizations that were funded near the  
5                   hotspots. And I think that's great, because  
6                   that's new, that's additional funding.

7                   But for all of the existing programs that  
8                   are offered in the City, when grandmom or  
9                   grandpop or aunties or uncles of the child that  
10                  they are caring for enters the system, do we  
11                  have something very tangible that we can say,  
12                  Hey, take this home. Take a look at this -- or  
13                  they can sit down with a counselor to figure  
14                  out whether or not there is a way.

15                  Because I do think we have multiple  
16                  programs in the City of Philadelphia that are  
17                  great programs. But most times, the people who  
18                  can benefit from them, they are not the people  
19                  who are accessing them.

20                  I guess my advocacy and my ask today is  
21                  although you have that program that you're  
22                  working on in trying to work in a collaborative  
23                  manner, if there's something we should be doing  
24                  to assist you in developing something

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1 tangible -- I don't know, Councilman Johnson,  
2 if that's something that the business community  
3 could be asked to help us fund. Because the  
4 well does runs dry, you know?

5 So maybe if there was a very tangible  
6 directory that was in barbershops, that were in  
7 hair salons, that were at senior citizen  
8 centers, you know, to see -- you can pick them  
9 up and put that in their bag. I just wanted to  
10 note that for the record.

11 And the last and final thing I want to  
12 say, Commish, thank you, on the record, for  
13 talking about the analytics, you know, data  
14 driven and research based. And I don't know  
15 whether or not this exists. If it does, please  
16 help me so that I can begin to communicate it  
17 to my constituency.

18 The use of texting now is obviously a  
19 powerful tool. I know the hotline number, the  
20 tips number, because we see that often in  
21 public service announcements on television.

22 Is there anywhere in the nation and/or in  
23 the City of Philadelphia, a vehicle that would  
24 allow people to text in realtime a tip? I may

1 not want to call the tip line. I may not want  
2 to dial the number. Or is the technology that  
3 I'm referencing like not in existence anywhere?

4 COMMISSIONER ROSS: There are other  
5 departments that are using Text-A-Tip. And you  
6 can text in the 686 tip so I'm told. But we  
7 need to build out on that. That's actually a  
8 good point to make sure that, you know, there  
9 are more avenues.

10 The technology, this is how people use it.  
11 We got to afford people the way to get us more  
12 information. It's about intel, as you're kind  
13 of suggesting. The ability to leverage that to  
14 get information, because we talk about it all  
15 the time.

16 Sadly, it's usually after incidents, that  
17 all we need sometime is for someone to say this  
18 is about to kick off, you know? Sadly, though,  
19 there are some instances when people don't  
20 know.

21 And I don't know that in that graduation  
22 party in that quiet area of the 12th District  
23 that anyone knew that was going to happen  
24 before it happened otherwise they probably

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1 would have got out of Dodge, you know, at least  
2 you would like to think so. Some of it unfolds  
3 very quickly. But some of it doesn't, to your  
4 point.

5 So we have to stay abreast of all this  
6 technology. And that's what we're asking for.  
7 That's what we want to get in the way of  
8 additional resources.

9 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: If we can build that  
10 out, Commish, in realtime. And if additional  
11 resources are required from that, we can have  
12 sort of a universal number that people knew  
13 that they could just directly text in realtime  
14 information to, and someone was monitoring it.  
15 I think that could be really helpful. And I  
16 think residents in the City of Philadelphia  
17 would text information more readily.

18 COMMISSIONER ROSS: And I agree. I know  
19 from going to these major City conferences,  
20 there are vendors out there that have stuff  
21 like that, so we need to just explore that some  
22 more.

23 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank you. And  
24 thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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1           COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you. And just  
2        as a matter of personal privilege, I just  
3        wanted to add, maybe, perhaps, partnering with  
4        the faith-based community. I remember when I  
5        was interning with former State Rep. Harold  
6        James and the pastors in South Philadelphia  
7        would allow for individuals to come and just  
8        put the information inside a box in church and  
9        go about their business. And Harold James was  
10       also a former police officer. We use that  
11       information as a matter of intel.

12       But also probably what's not being said,  
13       also, in this room is sometimes we know what's  
14       going on before it actually kicks off. And I  
15       know that because I still live in the  
16       neighborhood. I'm still on the ground. I  
17       still get what's going on inside the  
18       neighborhood.

19       And a lot of times, it's trying to  
20       prevent -- this is what the police really can't  
21       get involved in so much. Sometimes the people  
22       in the community have to step up, right, from a  
23       parenting standpoint and say, Listen, I know  
24       this is going down inside the neighborhood.

1 How do we figure out how to intervene before  
2 this thing kicks off? Because I see that on a  
3 regular basis.

4 And then when we get funeral sometimes  
5 there's family members by seven degrees of  
6 separation, their parents know each other,  
7 right? But if you know someone was throwing  
8 gangs signs on social media, right, and you  
9 know there's a back and forth, at some point in  
10 time we have to step up and say, Wait a minute.

11 How do we intervene and stop this before it  
12 kicks off to a whole different level.

13 And I think there's another Panel that's  
14 going to talk about the work that they're doing  
15 from a crisis intervention standpoint -- to be  
16 proactive as opposed to reactive before these  
17 things spin off.

18 COMMISSIONER ROSS: And Councilman, thank  
19 you. Because that's -- what you just said is  
20 going to be far more effective and impactful  
21 than anything we can ever do with regard to  
22 being in front of stuff, because people will  
23 know and their voices will resonate in a way  
24 where, you know -- many times we won't even

1 know.

2       And there are folks behind me who I know  
3 are already doing this on their own level, who  
4 are -- many of them go uncelebrated. But it's  
5 hard to measure what they stopped, right? So  
6 if they know Rich Ross was going to get into it  
7 with Myron Patterson, somebody was going to  
8 pull out a gun, but they were able to  
9 intervene. That doesn't get celebrated,  
10 necessarily. And it should be.

11       I know there's people back there doing  
12 that. I know them. So I know they're doing  
13 that. So I thank them for that. This is why  
14 I'm all for the intervener, interrupter  
15 concept, because I believe it does work. I  
16 believe it is a tool that assists us. And it's  
17 a force multiplier for us. No question.

18       COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Councilman Derek  
19 Green?

20       COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
21 Ms. Harley and DA Krasner, both in --  
22 Ms. Harley, on your Page 3 of your written  
23 testimony, and Mr. Krasner, in your verbal  
24 testimony, both made reference to focused

1 deterrents. And from what I gathered, it seems  
2 to be a difference of perspective in reference  
3 to how people are brought into the program of  
4 focused deterrents.

5 I wanted to get a perspective from both of  
6 you, and Commissioner Ross, feel free to jump  
7 in, as well, to give a perspective on how we  
8 can get beyond some of the differences and how  
9 people get into the focused deterrents program,  
10 but focus more on how do we use it as an  
11 effective tool to help those that are on the  
12 block, who are doing things that they may not  
13 want to do, but because of poverty and because  
14 they have not had an opportunity to see other  
15 availabilities for them to bring in resources  
16 to their home for their children, don't see  
17 another pathway.

18 And there are those who have gone, who  
19 have been in that path that have made a change  
20 that can be helpful to help some of these young  
21 people, especially young men, get out of that  
22 path.

23 And, I guess, my concern is I've been  
24 following focused deterrents for a number of

1 years. And I think it's an effective strategy.  
2 I think it's also an employment opportunity  
3 where you can employ people who have had a  
4 different path, help those trying to do what  
5 they are now doing.

6 So I want to get your perspective on that,  
7 so we can use it as a tool going forward.

8 MS. HARLEY: So we have been talking about  
9 focused deterrents for a period of time, at  
10 least in the short time that I've been in this  
11 position -- and I talked to DA Krasner as well  
12 as Commissioner Ross -- I think we are turning  
13 the corner on that with some additional work  
14 that we've all been doing as well as State  
15 Representative Movita Johnson-Harrell.

16 We actually have a meeting scheduled in  
17 about two weeks with them -- the folk at the  
18 table that we just talked about, as well as  
19 bringing in the author or the founder of  
20 focused deterrents, David Kennedy, will be  
21 coming into the City to work with us again.

22 We believe that we can, working together,  
23 craft a model that will work in Philadelphia.  
24 I was not around when the model was in place

1 before, but I do understand that there was some  
2 issues with it. So we're willing to take those  
3 lessons learned from the experts who were at  
4 the table, both from DA's office as well as the  
5 Police Department and crack that.

6 I know one of issues was many thought it  
7 was more stick than carrot. It's a stick and  
8 carrot model. And certainly, we are committed  
9 to trying to ensure that the carrot part does  
10 not get lost and that we work with the various  
11 agencies to prioritize what's going to be  
12 needed to make the model build out, exactly as  
13 you said, both with work force and other  
14 services.

15 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Just to jump in, I  
16 think part of the reason there was not enough  
17 carrot was because there was not enough  
18 resources to hire more people to do what was  
19 needed and make those connections with the  
20 Chamber of Commerce and other entities to  
21 provide more resources and job opportunities.

22 I always thought focused deterrents was  
23 underfunded, would not employ enough people  
24 that could be out in the community and give

1 them the resource to help those try to make a  
2 change in that regard.

3 MR. KRASNER: There's nothing brand new  
4 about our interest in some form of focused  
5 deterrent.

6 Actually, the City and the DA's office  
7 were working on a grant almost a year ago.  
8 That for reasons beyond the DA's office's  
9 control it was canceled. But it was always the  
10 understanding that we were looking for  
11 something that's there and effective.

12 Effective is going to mean that there's a  
13 carrot. A lot of other stuff is really just  
14 details.

15 And the words focused and deterrents, they  
16 don't necessarily stand for only one way of  
17 doing things. But we are committed to try to  
18 work together on effective ways of getting  
19 control of that population that are most at  
20 risk of either killing people or being killed.

21 COUNCILMAN GREEN: One thing -- real  
22 quick. I think it would effective if there's  
23 some -- and I know, District Attorney, you put  
24 in additional dollars for your budget.

1           But as we go through this unfortunate  
2        situation we're currently having for the  
3        summer, but as we go forward into next year's  
4        budget, having those resources together in not  
5        a consolidated approach, but a collective  
6        approach as to how we can get those resources --  
7        I think that would be effective.

8           COUNCILMAN JONES: To that point,  
9        Mr. Councilperson, the one thing I'm taking  
10       from all of this is that, individually, each of  
11       you are doing great things. And I know,  
12       because as Chair of Public Safety, I get to see  
13       slices of it.

14       Just like fingers, though, if they go like  
15       this, you can barely do anything with it. If  
16       they come together and start working  
17       together -- and I'm not saying that you're  
18       not -- but in a regimented way that break down  
19       some of those silos. I see the solutions to a  
20       lot of the things, systemically, that we can  
21       get done.

22       Now, I say this. It doesn't absolve us  
23       from our responsibility of putting some money  
24       to those solutions. And I'm willing to take

1 that on. And with my colleagues' help, we can  
2 ensure that.

3 But imagine you guys coming here  
4 collectively on one page saying he needs this.

5 She needs that. He needs the other. And  
6 that's it. That's how we solve this problem.

7 I think -- I actually believe with  
8 conviction -- we can make a dent in what's  
9 going on in our City. And I'm not saying that  
10 you're not. I'm saying we need more of it.

11 Somebody said 2.0 added to it. If you  
12 guys, similar to what the Criminal Justice  
13 Coordinating Committee did some years ago,  
14 different interests -- not always on the same  
15 page -- and you and your offices were a part of  
16 it.

17 Eventually, a memo went around the table,  
18 and we closed a prison. We reduced the  
19 population on State Road by 45 percent. And  
20 guess what? Crime didn't automatically go up.  
21 So I'm saying on this specific topic of gun  
22 violence, if we kind of regularly kind of close  
23 doors, no media, and really put things on the  
24 table of what we need to make a difference, we

1 will make a difference. And I just believe  
2 that.

3 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4 COUNCILMAN GREEN: One other follow-up  
5 question is in reference to -- I think the  
6 elephant in the room that we haven't discussed  
7 is that we, unfortunately -- the City of  
8 Philadelphia and the Commonwealth of  
9 Pennsylvania that we have laws in the  
10 Commonwealth that impact our ability to do what  
11 we need to do in reference to guns.

12 In April of this year, City Council in  
13 Pittsburgh, along with Mayor Bill Peduto,  
14 passed legislation regarding assault style  
15 weapons in Pittsburgh.

16 Now, I know there was an immediate  
17 response by those who are in the gun rights  
18 community in reference to the legislation and  
19 in reference to preemption, but I'm curious  
20 from the perspective of Commissioner Ross,  
21 District Attorney Krasner, and Ms. Harley -- I  
22 know the latter two are both attorneys -- your  
23 thoughts on that litigation. And if those are  
24 the steps that we should take on this body?

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1                   COMMISSIONER ROSS: Well, me, personally,  
2 I think you shouldn't, because we've got to get  
3 everything in place that we can to stop this  
4 scourge of violence.

5                   The problem being somewhat problematic --  
6 and the DA is better adept in the legal mind as  
7 you are than I am -- I don't know about the  
8 teeth that it has. So when you talk about  
9 preemption, right, and the fight that comes  
10 with it, I would just want to make sure that if  
11 we're going to enter that arena, that we're  
12 doing so with some degree of managing  
13 expectations of what can really be done.

14                  Obviously, the optimal of this is done on  
15 the Commonwealth level, which doesn't seem like  
16 we're getting any movement or will ever.

17                  But I'm in support of anything that's  
18 going to help. I just caution us about doing  
19 things where we might be spinning our wheels to  
20 say that we're doing something that doesn't  
21 really have that much of an impact, but I'm  
22 certainly not against it.

23                  MR. KRASNER: Let me just say this. I  
24 think that this body has been pretty courageous

1 in the past about trying to come up with  
2 solutions and trying to avoid the trap of the  
3 NRA wasting everybody's time and money. I  
4 think the Lost and Stolen Ordinance is an  
5 example of that. That will be attacked. We  
6 know. The NRA is coming. They always do. But  
7 there, it turned out that there was an answer.  
8 And I think it's a pretty good answer, which is  
9 you're not preempted, because it's not  
10 regulating guns. It's regulating people who  
11 say they used to have guns. And we do, in  
12 fact, regulate people, right?

13 So it may be that there are some of these  
14 that can be done carefully and creatively. And  
15 my office is certainly willing to sit down and  
16 have that discussion, that can come out of City  
17 Council.

18 I think the Commissioner's comments are  
19 appropriate, though. We are in a country that  
20 is insanely drowning in guns. You go to  
21 Germany, you go to Portugal, you're looking at  
22 a rate of homicide that is 9 percent or  
23 10 percent of the US. Their level of  
24 incarceration is also 9 or 10 percent of the

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1 US. Guess what? They don't have more guns  
2 than people.

3 We have a legislation that won't do  
4 anything about it. We have a federal  
5 government that won't do anything about it.

6 The good news today is the head of the NRA just  
7 resigned. I hope the next one resigns, too.

8 What a bunch of bums.

9 And frankly, where are our elected  
10 officials calling them out? And where are  
11 voters who vote out elected officials who put  
12 up with it?

13 So the real solutions here, ultimately,  
14 probably, are federal. And they probably are  
15 State. And we're in a tough spot. But my  
16 office is more than willing to sit down to see  
17 if we can work together on any proposed  
18 ordinance that might pass.

19 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you very much.  
20 Next, Councilwoman Helen Gym.

21 And I also just want to reiterate just  
22 briefly, right, because I know we have the  
23 preemption law and we know in the State of  
24 Pennsylvania unless you overturn -- and even if

1 you overturn the party to democrat -- I'm a  
2 former state representative -- you're probably  
3 still not going to pass a bill in the State of  
4 Pennsylvania. Because half the democrats are  
5 gun owners. They are very heavily supported by  
6 the NRA.

7 But the next panel can get to this issue,  
8 but that still doesn't release us of our  
9 responsibility of tracking on where these guns  
10 are coming from.

11 I'm born and raised in South Philly all my  
12 life. I'm proud of me becoming an elected  
13 official. Through the grace of God, I had a  
14 chance to change my life around.

15 And the artillery that I see on the  
16 streets today is not the artillery I saw in the  
17 streets in the early 80's and 90's. And there  
18 are much more guns on the streets in the City  
19 of Philadelphia now than there were when I was  
20 a kid growing up. We're coming from -- I talk  
21 to the Commissioner. A lot of guns are being  
22 stolen out of individual homes.

23 But I also believe in tracking and finding  
24 and those who sells these guns have to also be

1 a greater priority, as well. Because at the  
2 end of the day, they're coming from somewhere.  
3 And at the end of the day, we don't want you up  
4 here to pick them up. But at the end of the  
5 day, still put emphasis on tracking where  
6 they're coming from.

7 And I think our next Panel will talk more  
8 about the Gun Violence Task Force and how they  
9 are going after those individuals that carry  
10 and sell these weapons.

11 Councilwoman Helen Gym?

12 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Thank you very much,  
13 Mr. Chairman. So I think, like many of us in  
14 this room, we're all grappling with making  
15 sense of what's happening in our City. But I  
16 also want to reemphasize that this isn't also  
17 something new.

18 And I think all of us are here recognizing  
19 about the thousands of shootings that have  
20 happened. That we recognize that all the data  
21 indicates that they are concentrated in certain  
22 places. Gun violence doesn't impact everybody  
23 across the city equally. It is an incredible  
24 burden on communities that are struggling with

1 poverty, unemployment, struggling schools,  
2 young people who desperately need  
3 opportunities.

4 And, you know, I think one of things  
5 that's been most striking is the number of  
6 neighborhoods that bear this burden that we  
7 already know about. So 10 neighborhoods are  
8 50 percent of the shootings. One neighborhood,  
9 both sides of Broad Street in North  
10 Philadelphia account for one in five shootings.

11 So I want to thank my Chairman and also  
12 all of my colleagues who are here, because I  
13 know that there are certain things that we  
14 know. And there's also -- we're here because  
15 this is an emergency hearing, you know?

16 And while I do appreciate the City putting  
17 forward what we are beginning to do, what we  
18 are starting to study. We're here to push that  
19 timeline. That's what we're here to do. We're  
20 here because we're interested in solutions, not  
21 just administering to a problem.

22 With all due respect, I don't have a ton  
23 of questions right now for my District Attorney  
24 and for my Police Commissioner in part because

1 I hope that we don't get to focused deterrents.

2 And to the police, we cannot dump all the  
3 problems of these shootings on our police  
4 officers, when so much of this is rooted in  
5 costs that precede and that we already know and  
6 that we have been talking about for so long  
7 about poverty.

8 And that we have to start funding the  
9 community-based programs sufficiently and to  
10 efficiency instead of looking to the police to  
11 start paying for SAT programs. It makes no  
12 sense to me.

13 So I have a set of questions that I want  
14 to know about now. I'm here because this is an  
15 emergency hearing. And we are in July,  
16 practically, and we got young people who are  
17 out of school. And we know that this impacts  
18 young people the most. We got 29,000 young  
19 people between the ages of 18 and 24 in this  
20 City. 50 percent of whom are black boys. They  
21 need opportunities. They need access to  
22 things. So here are my questions.

23 I want to know what -- and I want to thank  
24 my colleague, Cindy Bass -- but I want to know

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1 in these neighborhoods, what is the commitment  
2 for longer hours at every single library and  
3 rec center? I don't want you to tell me what  
4 the libraries and rec centers are. I want to  
5 know what the plan is for the libraries and rec  
6 centers. Right now.

7 (Round of applause.)

8 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: And this is not a  
9 mystery about these things. This is something  
10 known.

11 We already had a great story about a  
12 Frankford football coach who keeps his office  
13 open late at night on every, single Friday  
14 night. And everyone's clapping about that.  
15 Well, where's the lesson back to us? We're the  
16 City.

17 So we don't have to do it in every single  
18 neighborhood right now, but we got to have some  
19 where we are making promise to those members  
20 that we are not only just targeting resources  
21 right now. But we are telling people right now  
22 what they can do. I will guarantee you that  
23 when we see this kind of an emergency and then  
24 we look at young people and we pass them in a

1       streets and we tell them, we'll get to you,  
2       that is a way for them and walk out the door  
3       and say, This is why I don't believe anymore.

4           And it's the same thing with the families  
5       and the parents and all the people who get  
6       impacted by violence that it's so deeply  
7       crushing.

8           I also want to know right now -- like we  
9       talked about the impact of blight, vacant land.  
10       We heard from Commissioner Perri about the  
11       interest in sealing up vacant properties and  
12       movement towards that. But there's also  
13       programs that we have right now with like  
14       withing the Horticultural Society, land care  
15       programs. Could there be emergency funds,  
16       which give opportunity youth and target  
17       neighborhoods, a chance to not only seal just  
18       these properties up and pretend like they don't  
19       exist -- like boarded up properties are not  
20       exactly fund other than vacant, blighted  
21       properties. They are often the same thing.

22           But can we give them something to like  
23       help them improve what their communities look  
24       like? Like those are existing programs. I'm

1 not asking to start anything new. But the  
2 Horticultural Society does have this land care  
3 program that puts young people to use in fixing  
4 up their neighborhoods. Is that something that  
5 the City is willing to do so that we don't just  
6 seal things up and pretend that that's going to  
7 solve a problem?

8 We've talked about this at the School  
9 District of Philadelphia. But the incredibly  
10 important need for us to get a crisis response  
11 team in place -- that include grief counselors,  
12 social workers who go in. If you're a direct  
13 victim, yes, you get a chance to work with the  
14 agencies.

15 What if you're not a direct victim? What  
16 if you're a child who came home, you're  
17 struggling, you're a family member, an aunt, a  
18 relative or a best friend. Like those things  
19 have torn families, communities and young  
20 people a part. How can we not have a plan for  
21 that, when these shootings are going off in  
22 these neighborhoods and communities in a way  
23 like young people feel like it's almost routine  
24 for them.

1           So we've got programs that are going on  
2    right now in our rec centers and our libraries  
3    and our schools. Summer programs -- Parks and  
4    Rec are running all these programs.

5           Can we infuse some of those with that  
6    grief counseling, the crisis response teams, so  
7    that when we things come through, we don't  
8    leave our young people with the anger, pain and  
9    trauma that they don't have any other outreach  
10   for. They can't even explain it.

11           (Round of applause.)

12           COUNCILWOMAN GYM: And then the last thing  
13    I would say is hunger is real. We got food  
14    pantries, we got people stealing for basic  
15    resources in their lives. Turning to crime for  
16    basic resources in their lives that we know the  
17    neighborhoods, we know the zip codes, we know  
18    the hot points -- whatever we want to call  
19    these places -- we already know.

20           Tell me what's going in there. And tell  
21    me when, because that's the most important  
22    thing for me. I got to know -- when I look a  
23    young person in the eye, what can I tell them  
24    right now in July -- this is what's coming to

1 your neighborhood. Do we have a guaranteed job  
2 program for those young people who work ready?  
3 Why not? PYN is ready to go. We got our  
4 business community -- hire up these young  
5 people. A guaranteed work ready program for  
6 every young person in those neighborhoods most  
7 impacted.

8 This is something that we have talked  
9 about. We scattered it across the City. We've  
10 done experiments. We've done pilots. Why not  
11 go all in now? If this is truly the emergency  
12 that we're talking about, go all in now on the  
13 neighborhoods and communities that we know are  
14 the biggest recipients of violence, and are  
15 dealing with the pain and trauma of it.

16 We don't need more tasks force -- let's go  
17 all in now. Bring in the cavalry. That's what  
18 we are.

19 (Round of applause.)

20 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Help me understand.  
21 Give me a timeline and tell us how we can work  
22 with you. And then if we need to transfer,  
23 then let's do it. Because this is that  
24 emergency that we've been talking about.

1           MS. HARLEY: So I fully understand and  
2 agree with many of the points that you said. I  
3 see that kind of as my roll and the roll of the  
4 Implementation Team is to try to coordinate  
5 this, which is what we're trying to do. We  
6 will go back and talk to those agencies,  
7 although we've already been in conversations  
8 with them.

9           But in order to sort of pin to a timeline  
10 and to quantify some of the stuff you said,  
11 which is in terms of the rec centers, I believe  
12 some of them are open later. But I would need  
13 to get you a list as to which ones and what the  
14 hours and the times are. We are already  
15 working with them -- with some of the modest  
16 funding that we have available to try to see  
17 where we can extend programming and other  
18 things, just using some of the violence  
19 prevention dollars. But it will take some  
20 going back and really working on what we can  
21 do.

22           As far as the blight stuff, I agree that  
23 your environment often affects your attitude.  
24 And so some of it is about the cleaning and the

1 greening of lots. So those vacant lots,  
2 cleaning them up, trying to employ young people  
3 from the community to help with that, and then  
4 putting fencing around them and other things to  
5 make them look more eye catching.

6 Even when we do the clean and seals, we're  
7 also talking about putting up, sort of, a door  
8 and window kind of facade so it's not just the  
9 basic plywood in terms of certain  
10 neighborhoods.

11 But all of the things you said are things  
12 we're working on. But I do get the urgency of  
13 it and whether or not we can ratchet it up.  
14 There's some conversations we have to have with  
15 those individual agencies to be able to report  
16 back to you some real numbers.

17 COMMISSIONER ROSS: Very quickly,  
18 Councilwoman, to your point, just within our  
19 purview, we've got 13 PAL centers that we're  
20 keeping open late in the evening and on Friday  
21 and opening up earlier on the weekend just to  
22 make sure that we do accomplish that for some  
23 of these young people.

24 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Can you state that

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1 again for the record, sir?

2 COMMISSIONER ROSS: 13 PAL canters that  
3 are opening or that are staying open later  
4 until 9:00 on the weekends and then opening up  
5 earlier on the weekends. So that's a good  
6 thing. It's one of the things we're trying to  
7 do to play that part.

8 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Just for a  
9 recommendation of support, because we're in the  
10 state of emergency, because I believe we're  
11 dealing with a crisis, maybe a PR team -- like  
12 that's information that should be readily  
13 available to the public, because I don't think  
14 the average individual would know we're  
15 extending PAL to the hours longer now. Just so  
16 they'll know, this is where you can take your  
17 children at on the weekends. I think that's a  
18 plus.

19 We probably need to do more to get that  
20 type of information out there to the public.  
21 Councilwoman?

22 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: The only thing I'll say  
23 is like you don't have to get back to me with  
24 all the lists of things. I just need them to

1 be open.

2 So like by July 4th -- I mean this is not  
3 even the hottest part of the summer. Thank God  
4 the last couple of weeks have not been like  
5 normal days in June. But once July 4th hits,  
6 we know that those heatwaves hit. We know  
7 people get frustrated. There's fewer places.

8 Like it's cool to go outside. That's how crazy  
9 people's housing lives are right now.

10 If the rec center is air conditioned, I  
11 think kids will go inside. I know that if  
12 schools are going to be air conditioned and PAL  
13 centers are going to be air conditioned, people  
14 are going to go inside. They are going to find  
15 refuge. No one wants the violence. This is  
16 not a normal state of human condition.

17 And I'm sick of tired of people  
18 pathologizing young people like they want and  
19 crave -- not that anybody here is doing it --  
20 but let's be clear. I don't anyone  
21 pathologizing that this some kind of normal  
22 effort of what happens in our City. It  
23 absolutely is not. But we are not giving  
24 enough alternatives.

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1           So by July 4th, can we have -- before the  
2       July 4th recess, can we have some concrete  
3       answers from the City about what it's going to  
4       do? I don't want any lists or directories or  
5       anything like that. Tell me what we're going  
6       to do. Tell me what we can promise to some of  
7       these neighborhoods and communities about  
8       what's in place by July 5th or July 10th, but  
9       not much further.

10          I mean, if this is the emergency, then  
11       let's make something happen.

12          MS. HARLEY: Understood. But I do want to  
13       say, I think the summer has recognized the  
14       emergency. Summer camps were opened earlier  
15       this year. The pools have opened earlier this  
16       year. There are a number of programs that have  
17       started earlier, as we're trying to build  
18       towards what we understand the situation in the  
19       City is. But we will get you your answers.

20          COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Yes. And I want to  
21       thank you, Ms. Harley. I know this is a hard  
22       thing and you're kind of the recipient.

23          But I just want to be clear, those are  
24       things that the City does any way. And I am

1 looking at neighborhoods that are deeply  
2 impacted. I'm not trying to do it everywhere.  
3 I want to see where the cavalry is going to be  
4 this summer for X thousands of kids in these  
5 ZIP codes in this neighborhood. Let's make them  
6 a promise that we can deliver on.

7 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you.

8 Councilwoman Cindy Bass?

9 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you,  
10 Mr. Chairman. I just want to follow up on my  
11 earlier comments to -- just going back to the  
12 opening of the rec center. You know, having  
13 them open at a later hour.

14 And as the Councilwoman just mentioned,  
15 and as I had mentioned earlier, we are  
16 circulating a letter and gathering support to  
17 ask the Administration and the Commissioner to  
18 not only be open, but to also have structure  
19 programming. Because we know -- the audience  
20 that we want to capture is not the summer camp  
21 audience. It's not the pool going audience.

22 The audience that we want to capture is  
23 the ones who were out late, way past, you know,  
24 into the night. And a lot of those -- to be

1 honest, we recognize that you're not going to  
2 be able to capture everybody, because some  
3 shootings are going to happen at 2:00 in the  
4 morning. Some are going to happen in the early  
5 wee hours. And those are not going to be  
6 people that we would attract under any  
7 circumstances. And we certainly do understand  
8 that.

9       But what we have right now in the City is  
10 really just a tale of two cities. And we've  
11 talked about this before. We talked about it  
12 during budget hearings. And you have some  
13 neighborhoods that are just completely off the  
14 book. There is no other way to describe it,  
15 except that you go into some of these  
16 neighborhoods, and it feels like a war zone.  
17 These are not new war zones, these are zones  
18 that were war zones when I was coming up.

19                   (Round of applause.)

20       COUNCILWOMAN BASS: And I'm seasoned, so  
21 I've been around for a minute. But they have  
22 been in this City for quite some time.

23       And the idea that we haven't gotten a  
24 handle on some of these things yet is

1 troubling. But even -- I would say this. Even  
2 as a younger person in the City, I didn't know  
3 of homicide victims probably until I was either  
4 way in high school or out of high school or in  
5 college. I didn't know of any victims of  
6 homicide. Young kids now all know of someone  
7 close to them.

8 And so there's a level of trauma that's  
9 associated with that. And I think of that when  
10 I think of what Councilman Johnson was saying  
11 earlier in terms of the way the guns have hit  
12 the streets and hit them really hard. So you  
13 hear about all kinds of things -- the amount of  
14 artillery that's out in our neighborhood. And  
15 it's just very, very frightening.

16 So I say all that to say that, you know,  
17 I'm glad to hear that we're having a  
18 conversation about focused deterrents. I'm  
19 glad that we're having the support. And I hope  
20 the organization and strategy between the  
21 Police Commissioner and the District Attorney  
22 and their offices, that there is the  
23 coordination -- of course, you, as well,  
24 Ms. Harley -- that there is a level of

1 coordination that we need, because we need to  
2 be organized. Whatever effort is happening in  
3 the street, whatever is going on in the  
4 neighborhoods, we need to be organized. That's  
5 the best way that we can come back. If we're  
6 not organized, then all of the money we're  
7 spending, all of the work we're doing, it's all  
8 for nothing if we're not all in sync and  
9 working together.

10 So, you know, the one thing I did want to  
11 also mention is that there was just a little  
12 comment made earlier in terms of the money that  
13 was not allocated during the budget season,  
14 Mr. District Attorney, in terms of your budget  
15 and what was provided.

16 And I'm just going to say -- and actually,  
17 I'm going to speak for everybody on Council,  
18 and whoever can correct me, Councilman -- but  
19 I'm going to speak for everybody when I say  
20 that I don't know of any member of Council that  
21 said we don't want to support your funding  
22 request. So I don't want to leave it in the  
23 hands of Council as if City Council did not  
24 fully support your funding requests. So I just

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1 wanted to state that.

2 MR. KRASNER: I have to correct that. I  
3 am not blaming Council. Please don't  
4 understand that to be it. But we were reduced  
5 \$3 million. We went in looking for three more.  
6 We got three less. We're down six from where  
7 we wanted to be.

8 I think a lot of it comes from the fact  
9 that City put forward a budget that it cut us 3  
10 million. And there may have been some  
11 misunderstanding --

12 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Well, let me be clear.  
13 Because I think that -- and again, I'm going to  
14 speak for everyone here. We all want to make  
15 sure that our police and our District  
16 Attorney's Office have all of the resources  
17 that they need.

18 We had over a \$300 million surplus in the  
19 last year. And I say spend the money. Like  
20 what are we saving money for and people are  
21 getting shot in the street? Spend the money.

22 (Round of applause.)

23 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: And so I don't think  
24 any one of us is trying to hold back resources

1 to spend somewhere else, when we have this  
2 public health, public, you know, life and death  
3 emergency situation going on.

4 So I just really wanted to be on record on  
5 that, because I don't want for one second the  
6 citizens of the City of Philadelphia to feel as  
7 though we're doing anything less than making  
8 sure that they are safe at all times in all  
9 neighborhoods. So I just wanted to be on  
10 record for that, as well.

11 And I recognize that there's no one thing  
12 that's going to fix this. There's long-term  
13 solutions, and there are short-term solutions.  
14 But on the short-term solutions, we have to  
15 look at the activities piece for our young  
16 people. We have to look at employment in a  
17 very challenging environment.

18 We just heard today that Hahnemann is  
19 talking about closing its door. That's about  
20 3,000 jobs. And the refinery, about another  
21 thousand jobs. So we're in a very tough  
22 situation right now. And these are the things  
23 we have to deal with, but we have to get in  
24 front of them.

1           And we want to certainly make sure that we  
2       support our law enforcement officials with the  
3       short-term solutions including employment,  
4       activities and supports to programs that are  
5       already on the ground working and doing  
6       anti-violence work, here, in the City of  
7       Philadelphia.

8           That's what I had to say. And thank you  
9       so much, Mr. Chairman, for your time on the  
10      matter.

11          COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Last question for the  
12      Panel, Councilman Mark Squilla.

13          COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you,  
14       Mr. Chairman. I want to reiterate that about  
15       working together. Also -- and the programming  
16       is important, but there also is an aspect that  
17       Councilwoman Bass said that some people, you're  
18       just not going to reach. So that's were  
19       policing also comes into effect and also  
20       enforcement.

21          We need to be able to know that there are  
22       some folks that are out there that sometimes  
23       commit these crimes. And we know right,  
24       actually, in front of the police. We have them

1 in my District. Over the last two weekends, we  
2 had five shootings. And -- in succession,  
3 Friday, Saturday, Friday and then again last  
4 night. So some of those folks are known to the  
5 system. Some of the folks we're aware of.

6 So we also need to make sure that when we  
7 do have instances like that, people who are not  
8 really going to be engaged by programming, we  
9 need to make sure we have that enforcement  
10 mechanism in place to be able to make sure that  
11 they are not only a menace to the community,  
12 but also kept off the street so that we can  
13 protect the people who are doing the right  
14 thing on the street. And I think that's  
15 something else we need to work together with to  
16 make sure we do that.

17 And we can have all the programs in the  
18 world for a lot of people -- and I agree with  
19 doing that, because we're going to help a lot  
20 of folks to be able not to commit these crimes.  
21 But there's always going to be somebody out  
22 there to do it any way. So that's where we  
23 still need to work together to make that  
24 happen. And thank you.

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1                   COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you,  
2 Councilman. I want to acknowledge -- and also  
3 have a few questions by Councilwoman Jannie  
4 Blackwell.

5                   COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you. Thank  
6 you very much. Certainly, very, very grateful  
7 that we're having this emergency, important  
8 hearing.

9                   I agree with all that has been said. And  
10 in fact, I hope that we can find a way to keep  
11 our recreation centers open a little longer. I  
12 asked this for the last couple years. The  
13 Recreation Commissioner tells me that college  
14 kids go back to school -- many of them who are  
15 life guards.

16                  But where we can, we really need to -- it  
17 seems like the pools open and then close.  
18 Maybe in our recreation centers we can look at  
19 that to try to see if we can't keep them open a  
20 little longer.

21                  I want to thank both the Police, our  
22 Commissioner and his Department and the DA's  
23 Office for all that we do with victim services.  
24 It's so important that we reach out to people.

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1 And we all know people who have lost children.  
2 So it's important that we work with these  
3 people, because it makes all the different in  
4 the world.

5 Tonight we're having a community meeting  
6 at First Corinthian, 51st and Pine, to talk  
7 about these issues. And certainly, we're still  
8 hoping -- Commissioner, we're hoping we can get  
9 you on the 13th. They got worth coming out for  
10 three hours and trying to get you out there  
11 every Saturday at 41st and Lancaster. And  
12 we're hoping you can find a little time for us  
13 on that day. We got all these calls into your  
14 office. You'll know as soon as you hit it.

15 We're trying to do our best.

16 Everybody -- I don't know -- I guess none  
17 of us really understands how all this  
18 continues, because everybody I know, whether  
19 they are block captains, elected officials,  
20 committee men, town watch, everybody is  
21 fighting this issue, you know? Everybody is  
22 fighting it from where they are. And that's  
23 the only thing that's solved problems.

24 Parents are fighting it. All of us are

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1 fighting it. People are fighting it. Where  
2 drugs are sold, they're fighting those kind of  
3 institutions. They are doing what they can to  
4 help their children and activities. We're  
5 doing what we can to fight it. It's got to  
6 improve, because if everybody does their part,  
7 life has to get better, I believe. Thank you  
8 all.

9 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you very much,  
10 Councilwoman. Just one last question to the  
11 Department of Health, Cheryl Bettigole, last  
12 question for this panel.

13 You talked about needing funding for the  
14 public campaign around -- what it is called?  
15 After You Shoot Now What?

16 DR. BETTIGOLE: It's called You Shoot, Now  
17 What.

18 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: You Shoot, Now What.  
19 Now, I met with the former Health Department  
20 head when this first started, right? They did  
21 a trial roll out of this initiative, right, and  
22 it's been very effective. Everything you  
23 talked about, I agree with.

24 If we just allotted -- I think it's 31

1 million over a certain period of time -- how  
2 come some of those fundings can't go towards  
3 your initiative? Why do we need additional  
4 money and Council just allocated a significant  
5 amount of money towards violence prevention  
6 initiatives?

7 DR. BETTIGOLE: So first, I want  
8 clarification. Commissioner Farley is the  
9 commissioner. He's out of town today. So we  
10 have another source of funding that we believe  
11 will pay for it. We should know, I believe,  
12 some time in the next month or so.

13 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Okay. I just want to  
14 state for the record, also, when you have that  
15 type of public campaign around the issue of  
16 violence, it plants those seeds of deterrence  
17 and seeds of hope in the public.

18 I think right now when we have these type  
19 of hearings, and us selected officials and  
20 individuals from the various departments,  
21 member of the District Attorney's Office and  
22 the Philadelphia Police Department, we get up  
23 there and say, Well, overall violence is down  
24 this percent, that percent, right? That's not

1 what the feeling is when you go outside the  
2 neighborhood. That's not what the average  
3 person tells me when they're walking through  
4 the street -- separate from what the statistics  
5 might actually say.

6 But when you're counting that with an  
7 actual public campaign, saying we're out here  
8 on the front line. We're addressing this  
9 issue -- I remember under Lynne Abraham, they  
10 used to have this campaign where -- I'll never  
11 forget it -- you get on the bus and you talk  
12 about how much time you're going to get for  
13 carrying a gun, right?

14 At least the plans to see it, if not for  
15 the guy who's going to do it any way, but that  
16 next generation of young people who think they  
17 might want to be tough on the 17 bus and they  
18 see a sign that says, After You Shoot, Now  
19 What? Because it really begs the question  
20 after you shoot -- really, now what?

21 And one ad is a young man behind the  
22 prison glass with his daughter on the other  
23 side, which is a realistic picture. The other  
24 one was a mother crying, which is real. And

1 the other one is a young man getting arrested.

2 So whatever we need to do to wrap up that  
3 message -- I think that's what we have to have  
4 out there. We're actually out here doing our  
5 job. We're actually out here addressing this  
6 issue. And we're putting it on the forefront  
7 of everybody's mind that this is actually a  
8 priority here.

9 The opioid piece, I see a million  
10 Commercials about if you're drug addicted.  
11 Every single day I say, Oh, that got the  
12 commercials about going to this treatment  
13 program and that treatment program.

14 If we can take that same approach from a  
15 public health crisis standpoint, I think that  
16 would be awesome. I just want to state that  
17 for the record.

18 DR. BETTIGOLE: I agree. And we chose  
19 those images very intentionally after a lot of  
20 focus group discussion. Not to choose blood  
21 and gore, but to choose images that were very  
22 powerful. And we're right now printed versions  
23 of those out on the street.

24 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank. Listen, we

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1 started at 11:00. It's 2:00. And you're the  
2 first panel.

3 I do want to thank the Commissioner. I  
4 want to thank you, Vanessa, I want to thank  
5 you --

6 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Mr. Chairman?

7 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: I'm sorry.

8 Councilwoman Cindy Bass.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: I know you were going  
10 to wrap up, but I just had one more quick  
11 question, I'm sorry.

12 And I wanted to ask -- did I see this  
13 morning on the news that there was a crack down  
14 that was going to be happening on nuisance  
15 businesses as a result of the homicide that  
16 happened in Council President Clarke's  
17 District? The young woman who was killed, she  
18 was a mother of five, in a nuisance business.

19 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: In the deli.

20 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Yeah. So we did a lot  
21 of work along with Commissioner Perri and L&I  
22 and the Police Department, obviously, the  
23 Health Department in pulling together some  
24 changes that were supposed to be happening for

1 these businesses, which are nuisance businesses  
2 for the most part, that sell beer, shots of  
3 liquor, drugs, as you can convert into illegal  
4 drugs to get you high, crack pipes, all kinds  
5 of material that's obviously not good for the  
6 community and causing all kinds of -- reeking  
7 all kinds of havoc in the neighborhood.

8 And it was our understanding that these  
9 businesses were going to be closed and  
10 shuttered some time ago. We had expected that  
11 we would have more time.

12 We understand that the State had stepped  
13 in and has not been as helpful as we had hoped.  
14 Is it correct -- is my understanding correct --  
15 that there's going to be more enforcement from  
16 the Police Department to close these  
17 businesses?

18 MR. SULLIVAN: Absolutely, Councilwoman.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Fantastic.

20 MR. SULLIVAN: And for the record, my name  
21 is Deputy Commissioner Joe Sullivan. I command  
22 patrol operations. Good afternoon, Councilman.

23 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Good morning.

24 MR. SULLIVAN: Councilwoman, you're

1    absolutely right. The amount of cooperation we  
2    received from Commissioner Perri is just  
3    absolutely outstanding when it comes to problem  
4    businesses, licensed liquor establishments, and  
5    the latest problem we're confronting with  
6    hookah lounges and their ability to operate as,  
7    basically, speak easies. The cooperation  
8    between his office and the Pennsylvania State  
9    Police Liquor Control Enforcement, we have seen  
10   some substantial results.

11       Now, what you're speaking of to that  
12   tragic incident inside that deli, an example of  
13   that is the staff inspectors that are assigned  
14   to both chief inspectors within the Patrol  
15   Bureau.

16       Chief Inspector Holmes and Chief Inspector  
17   Dales -- Chief Inspector Dales is here today.  
18   His staff inspector was working very closely  
19   with L&I. And yesterday they did shut down  
20   2248 Ridge Avenue. And that has been a  
21   location where we have received numerous  
22   complaints from the community. And that is  
23   just the beginning of an initiative in the 22nd  
24   District, which will continue City wide, to

1 address the type of concerns that you're  
2 raising here.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Well, I have a long  
4 list. So I'd be happy to share that list with  
5 you.

6 MR. SULLIVAN: Please share that with me,  
7 ma'am.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: I thought we had  
9 shared it with you before. We'd be happy to  
10 put it back together for you again if you need  
11 it.

12 But we have a number of establishments,  
13 including one -- and I want to, actually, give  
14 a shout out to my captain, Anthony Ginaldi in  
15 the 39th District, who has just been really  
16 responsive with a problem business as a takeout  
17 restaurant, which is at -- in the Broad and  
18 Hunting Park intersection right next to a gas  
19 station -- that has had just numerous  
20 complaints. It's just ridiculous.

21 If you go by there right now, there's a  
22 whole bunch of people standing around --

23 MR. SULLIVAN: We have problems -- I'm  
24 sorry, ma'am, not to interrupt you. We have

1 problems with narcotics enforcement out there.  
2 We have had far too many incidents of gun  
3 violence out there. And much of that is being  
4 driven by the drug trade, which our narcotics  
5 bureau has made significant inroads in, but  
6 also businesses that do operate outside the law  
7 and do things that attract the wrong type of  
8 people.

9 And I know that both Captain Rodriguez in  
10 the 25th District and Captain Ginaldi in the  
11 39th, since they share the problem, have been  
12 aggressive in addressing all those. And we've  
13 gotten outstanding help from the Commissioner  
14 of Licenses and Inspections.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Well, we were out at  
16 that location for an event at another place  
17 down the street back in April and approached  
18 one of the young men who was standing around,  
19 and asked, Why are you here? You know, why is  
20 everybody just hanging around here all of the  
21 time? He said, Well, we don't have anyplace  
22 else to go. We don't have anything else to do.  
23 So we had a conversation with him.

24 And it wasn't more than a week later that

1 there was a homicide at that location with a  
2 young man who was shot and killed. I don't  
3 know who was shot and killed, but there was a  
4 homicide at that location. I don't even think  
5 it was a week later.

6 And so these are the kind of tragedies  
7 that we're dealing with that, again, if we're  
8 able to open up some facilities maybe on a warm  
9 Saturday night, which this was, we would be  
10 able to attract some of these young people into  
11 some of those facilities.

12 But again, I just wanted to also thank the  
13 Captain of the 39th, Anthony Ginaldi, and also  
14 Captain Smith from the 14th District and  
15 Captain Ransome from the 35th District, who are  
16 all great partners in helping us with the work  
17 we need to do in our neighborhood.

18 MR. SULLIVAN: I'll be happy to pass that  
19 along, ma'am.

20 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you. And thank  
21 you, Mr. Chairman.

22 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you. I want to  
23 thank you for your time and thank you for your  
24 testimony today. Thank you very much.

1           Can the clerk please call the last Panel,  
2        please?

3           THE CLERK:  Brendan O'Malley, Faustino  
4        Castro-Jimenez, George Mosee.

5           (Witness approached witness table.)

6           COUNCILMAN JOHNSON:  I want to go in this  
7        direction.  Brendan, I would like for you to  
8        start.  And then Faustino Castro-Jimenez, I  
9        would like for you to go next.  And then I  
10      would like for George to wrap us up, because  
11      all of your testimony is part of a  
12      comprehensive approach from the law enforcement  
13      standpoint to dealing with the juvenile's from  
14      an enforcement standpoint, but also just  
15      wrapping it up from the community intervention  
16      standpoint, as well.

17           So I want to ask for Brendan to please  
18      start with your testimony.

19           MR. O'MALLEY:  Thank you very much,  
20      Councilman Johnson.  And I thank the Committee  
21      for the important work that it performs.

22           As you mentioned, my name is Brendan  
23      O'Malley.  I'm the Chief Deputy Attorney  
24      General.  I'm here representing Attorney

1 General Josh Shapiro and the Gun Violence Task  
2 Force.

3 My counter part in the DA's office is Judge  
4 Conroy, as was mentioned before, he is unable  
5 to be here today --

6 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Can you speak into  
7 the microphone more?

8 MR. O'MALLEY: Sure. But I am joined by  
9 Assistant Supervisor in the DA's Office, JT  
10 Tartikoff.

11 I was a City prosecutor from 2003 to 2015.  
12 And five of those years were spent in the  
13 Homicide Unit, so I am acutely aware of the  
14 profound affects that illegal guns have on our  
15 community. I'm here to update you on the work  
16 of the task force.

17 The Gun Violence Task Force is a joint  
18 state and local task force that focuses its  
19 resources on straw purchase investigations,  
20 origins of crime guns and conducts large scale  
21 investigations into violent, criminal  
22 organizations in neighborhoods.

23 It's funded by the State. It's comprised  
24 of state agents and Philadelphia assistant

1 district attorneys. And our primary mission is  
2 to investigate how guns illegally get on the  
3 street.

4 We also aggressively prosecute background  
5 check violations to ensure prohibited persons  
6 do not possess firearms. And we also conduct  
7 large scale criminal investigations into groups  
8 that use firearms.

9 In this task force, the Attorney General  
10 and the DA work closely with the Philadelphia  
11 Police and our federal partners in the ATF and  
12 FBI in identifying and prosecuting gun  
13 traffickers, straw purchasers, and shooters.

14 Recently, fully staffed with two full  
15 squads of state agents and seven ADAs, there  
16 has been a sharp increase in productivity  
17 including a 40 percent increase in guns  
18 recovered by our agents in 2018, and a  
19 significant increase in open cases in the last  
20 year.

21 Our agents are embedded with the  
22 Philadelphia Police Detective Divisions. And  
23 we are lucky to not only have experienced  
24 agents, but an excellent group of ADAs and

1 supervisors in the unit that run the day-to-day  
2 operations of the task force.

3 Not only does our unit work closely with  
4 Federal law enforcement agencies, but we enjoy  
5 an excellent working relationship with the  
6 violent crimes unit of the United States  
7 Attorney's Office, in which three of our ADAs  
8 and myself are crossed designated and sworn in  
9 as Special Assistant United States Attorneys to  
10 prosecute the most violent and complex cases in  
11 Federal Court.

12 I want to briefly update you on some of  
13 the major initiatives that have taken place  
14 since my last testimony in June of 2018.

15 Councilman, as you know, in February of  
16 2018, at the request of commanders in the  
17 Philadelphia Police Department, our task force  
18 conducted an investigation into ongoing gang  
19 violence in South Philadelphia, that branched  
20 out to Southwest and Northwest Philadelphia.  
21 This violence was primarily between two rival  
22 groups and increase greatly in 2017 and early  
23 2018.

24 An assistant district attorney was

1 assigned to review and conduct the  
2 investigation, along with myself, and agents  
3 from the Attorney General. Through the use of  
4 what are called Nighbin(ph) Reports, which are  
5 generated by the ATF, social media posts,  
6 surveillance video, and other evidence, it  
7 became clear that a select group of individual  
8 firearms were being used at well over 40  
9 shootings and homicides throughout the City of  
10 Philadelphia.

11 These shootings were also linked through  
12 forensic cell phone evidence to two main rival  
13 gangs at 27th and 31st Street.

14 As a result of the investigation and a  
15 year long grand jury, arrests were made on  
16 March 6th, 2019. Nine individuals associated  
17 with gangs on both sides of this conflict were  
18 arrested, including two charged with the  
19 shooting death of a teenager at 27th and  
20 Dickinson.

21 Recovered during arrests and searches were  
22 four firearms, two of which are connected to  
23 shootings already linked to the ongoing gang  
24 war.

1           All of the charges were held for court.  
2   They now await trial dates. And all offenders  
3   are detained in County Prison, as we believe  
4   they present a threat to themselves and others.

5           Assisting in that investigation was the  
6   Juvenile Probation Unit, Philadelphia Police  
7   Detective Divisions, the ATF, US Marshals, and  
8   the FBI.

9           As a result of this operation, a majority  
10   of the main violent crime drivers were  
11   arrested. And shootings between those two  
12   groups fell dramatically.

13           Shootings, which had previously been  
14   occurring at a rate of multiple times a day  
15   over a series of months in 2017 and '18, slowed  
16   to a trickle after the grand jury presentment.

17           There were no shootings for over a month  
18   after the arrest in the target area. And  
19   shootings remain low, with just two incidents  
20   that we are currently able to connect to the  
21   conflict.

22           We are really just beginning. A new grand  
23   jury has been empaneled. The investigation  
24   into the unsolved shootings and homicides in

1 South Philadelphia continue. And due to the  
2 Philadelphia Police Department requesting our  
3 assistance, we have expanded our investigation  
4 into a target area of West Philadelphia.

5 With these limited resources, our task  
6 force is effectively prosecuting high value  
7 targets that are brought to us by the  
8 Philadelphia Police Department.

9 I want to switch gears briefly and talk  
10 about our Kensington initiative. In August of  
11 2018, the AG's office in collaboration with the  
12 FBI, Philadelphia Police and SEPTA Police,  
13 launched a Kensington initiative to address  
14 violent crime associated with the opioid  
15 epidemic. Our drug unit and task force work  
16 closely with the FBI to develop a strategy to  
17 use intelligence to address the most violent  
18 and prolific drug corners in the Fairhill  
19 section of Kensington.

20 What is unique about this initiative is  
21 not only the intelligence led effort targeting  
22 violent crime drivers and the collaboration  
23 between the FBI, AG's Office and Philly Police,  
24 but after each operation, there is a focus on

1 servicing the community in the target area by  
2 working with the Managing Director's Office to  
3 surge resources, hold community meetings and  
4 ensure the neighborhood is equipped to hold on  
5 to the gains we made as a result of the law  
6 enforcement operation.

7 Our goal in this initiative is simple --  
8 give those corners back to the neighbors.

9 After two successful operations, we look  
10 forward to having another major impact by  
11 dismantling another violent organization this  
12 summer.

13 The final thing I want to update you on,  
14 Councilman, is our efforts for comprehensive  
15 tracing of crime guns in the State of  
16 Pennsylvania. We discussed this briefly  
17 before, but the AG's Office is working closely  
18 with the ATF and State Police to enhance  
19 intelligence sharing.

20 As you may or may not know, it is actually  
21 state law that every crime gun recovered in the  
22 State of Pennsylvania must be reported to the  
23 ATF and the state police. We are urging all  
24 departments in Pennsylvania to closely track

1 and trace their crime guns, and opt into what's  
2 called collective data sharing.

3 As you know, Councilman, these guns have  
4 no borders -- how they come into our City.  
5 There are less than 10 gun dealers in the City  
6 of Philadelphia. There's over 2,600 in the  
7 State.

8 We understand this effort extends well  
9 beyond the borders of Philadelphia. And the AG  
10 is building an innovative to integrate Federal,  
11 State and local efforts to trace and  
12 investigate crime guns.

13 One facet of this program is what I  
14 mentioned before, the ATF's NIBIN Program -- in  
15 essence, it's tracking -- every gun leaves a  
16 fingerprint. Every shell casing leaves a  
17 fingerprint. And it's important that all of  
18 that data be uploaded to the ATF so they can  
19 share it with major and local police  
20 departments, because there could be a shooting  
21 in Chester that's linked to a gun in  
22 Philadelphia. And it would never have been  
23 known unless that is shared through the NIBIN  
24 Program.

1        We are pressing local agencies to use all  
2    resources at their disposal and information  
3    share to allow us to target the source of  
4    illegal guns across all of our communities.

5        In addition to working with law  
6    enforcement, we are also working closely with  
7    our partners in the City and community groups  
8    like Cease Fire PA, Temple University, the  
9    Health Department, My Mothers In Charge, to  
10   formulate a way to target the most vulnerable  
11   community that is subject to straw purchasing.

12       To your point, there was a program, when  
13   there was a five year mandatory for carrying a  
14   crime gun in Pennsylvania. We seek to work  
15   with local group and Mothers In Charge to have  
16   a similar public outreach program to teach  
17   people the dangers of straw purchasing and the  
18   dangers of what happens when an illegal  
19   transfer ends up in the wrong hands.

20       Only law enforcement can deal with the  
21   after effects of this violence, but community  
22   outreach must meet that intersection before the  
23   at-risk behavior occurs to ensure people know  
24   the dangers of gun trafficking in our

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1 neighborhoods.

2       In order to produce a thousand foot view  
3       of gun trafficking in our state, all of our  
4       local and federal partners must collaborate.

5       The Attorney General looks forward to  
6       taking a leadership role in coordinating those  
7       agencies and their efforts to reduce the gun  
8       violence that profoundly affects Philadelphians  
9       every day. We can do better and we will do  
10      better. Thank you.

11       COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you.

12       Mr. Castro?

13       MR. JIMENEZ: Thank you. For the record,  
14       my name is Faustino Castro-Jimenez. I'm the  
15       Chief of Probation for Juvenile Division. With  
16       me are Paul Vizza, he's the Director of YVRP,  
17       or our Warrant Unit, and also Joseph  
18       Coccro(ph). He is the Director for our  
19       Juvenile Enforcement Team. And hopefully, you  
20       allow us the opportunity for them to share a  
21       little bit about the enforcement piece in terms  
22       of juvenile probation.

23       So good afternoon Councilman Johnson and  
24       Members of the Special Committee on Gun

1 Violence. Thank you for allowing me the  
2 opportunity to testify on this incredibly  
3 important issue that creates havoc in families,  
4 trauma, despair, and, ultimately, tears up the  
5 fabric of our communities.

6 Although Probation's jurisdiction limits  
7 our capabilities to youth under court ordered  
8 supervision between the ages of 10 and 21, we  
9 are working with system partners to address  
10 issues within our purview that can give youth a  
11 fighting chance to reach their potential.

12 Too often do I receive reports where youth  
13 under supervision are perpetrators of shooting  
14 or have been victims of retaliation. Some of  
15 these shootings involve youth. It may be  
16 attributed to social media posts where youth  
17 may feel disrespected by other youth -- as you  
18 mentioned earlier.

19 Some shootings are as a result of fights  
20 originating at the school level and later  
21 pouring into our communities. Some can be  
22 attributed to generation, small factions,  
23 blocks, groups or cliques that have been in  
24 competition with each other for years.

1        This cycle of youth cut short  
2    understandably alarms our collective conscience  
3    and must stop so that the healing can start.

4        Juvenile Probation is committed to being  
5    part of the conversation. And we enjoy the  
6    full support of our Judicial Administration to  
7    assist us in this endeavor.

8        Our young people face many challenges  
9    today, but they are resilient. And I'm  
10   convinced that a significant majority of young  
11   people, irrespective of the fact they may be on  
12   supervision, can solely benefit from proper  
13   guidance.

14       So what is Juvenile Probation doing? I  
15   want to share a couple of things in terms of  
16   the preventive measures that we're trying to  
17   accomplish.

18       Number one, we've met with representatives  
19   from the School District to proactively  
20   streamline our communication process, for  
21   instance, that may spill over into our  
22   communities.

23       What we have recognized is a lot of issues  
24   that are happening in communities -- and

1 especially for school-aged kids -- happening in  
2 school, we don't know about the beef that is  
3 going on, spill into communities, and all of a  
4 sudden we get shootings. Kids shooting each  
5 other for minor things.

6 Sometimes we have realized that if we  
7 would have intervened in time with the School  
8 District communicating with them, we may have  
9 prevented a shooting from happening in our  
10 communities.

11 Therefore, what we also wanted to do is  
12 the ensure that youth under supervision who are  
13 victims of shooting, we would establish a  
14 process whereby trauma efforts were coordinated  
15 among agencies -- School District of  
16 Philadelphia, Probation, counseling services  
17 will be offered, and, the necessary supports  
18 will be in place for our youth.

19 Number two, along with the support from  
20 State and local DHS, we will increase our  
21 capacity for GPS to track our high-risk youth  
22 in the communities under strict supervision.  
23 Also, with the support, an RFP is being  
24 developed to create an additional evening

1 reporting centers.

2 Now, this is important here. We have two  
3 evening reporting centers, both are, actually,  
4 working. One is used for an alternative  
5 placement with a GPS component. One is used  
6 for a pre adjudicatory -- these are kids that  
7 are waiting adjudicatory hearings. We place  
8 them on GPS or we monitor them in their  
9 communities, because we want to make sure they  
10 are protected, but we also want to make sure  
11 the communities are protected. So we follow  
12 them.

13 But in these evening reporting centers,  
14 they offer cognitive behavioral therapies,  
15 academic supports. They offer music choices.  
16 They offer job training and coaching. They  
17 offer a lot of things that will benefit --  
18 those soft skills that benefit our youth in the  
19 future.

20 So what we're trying to do is develop an  
21 ERC, and that's a care evening reporting  
22 center, for those specific youth that are  
23 coming down from residential placement. Youth  
24 between 17 and 21, that's our highest risk

1 population. And what we're trying to do is  
2 we're trying to ensure that the recidivism rate  
3 for these particular youth, that we know are  
4 the ones that are shooting out there and are  
5 also victims of shooting, those particular  
6 youth are actually coming back from residential  
7 placements and are in a structured care where  
8 they can receive all the supports and services  
9 that they can transition successfully from  
10 probation supervision.

11 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: I want to let you  
12 finish your testimony. But, you know, the  
13 first panel kind of gave an overview of some of  
14 the things that the City is doing. This is at  
15 the heart of what I see on a daily basis,  
16 because we're talking about juveniles.

17 A lot of the shooters are the babies  
18 that's carrying the guns in the neighborhoods.  
19 And those are the ones who are also losing  
20 their lives in the neighborhoods. And so  
21 that's just something critical that you just  
22 touched on, because the typical age of a  
23 shooter, and the one who is more likely to  
24 killed or be shot, right started from a

1 juvenile age up until they are 21, 22 type.

2 MR. JIMENEZ: And you're absolutely right,  
3 Councilman. And it escalates from there. So  
4 we want to stop the pipeline. We are always  
5 looking to stop the pipeline.

6 And so we also recognize that ERCs have a  
7 specific function. And this is what the  
8 function is. We recognize that between the  
9 hours of 4 and 12, our youth are more prone to  
10 be involved in delinquent behavior. And are  
11 more prone, also, to be involved in activities  
12 that we deem are risky activities, high-risk  
13 activities.

14 So hopefully by having this in place, we  
15 will diminish and decrease the number of youth  
16 that are actually transitioning out of State  
17 placements into these structured ERCs and then  
18 hopefully out of Probation's supervision and  
19 hopefully with jobs.

20 And in reference to jobs, so point number  
21 three, with the grant support from PCCD and the  
22 Juvenile Court Judges Commission, we have  
23 embarked on the Second Chance Act, which offers  
24 our older population returning from State

1 secured placements the opportunity to find  
2 meaningful employment. We have contracted with  
3 PHMC, who is utilizing a jobs coordinator, to  
4 work with our community employment partners.

5 There's two main indicators that can  
6 predict juvenile delinquency -- one, is school.  
7 Is a child attending school? Is a child at  
8 school? Is a child missing school? And why?

9 The second reason is jobs. For some  
10 reason, if a youth is gainfully employed, if he  
11 has some type of sustainable employment within  
12 the ages of 17 and 21, that youth is more  
13 likely, or less likely, to be involved in  
14 delinquent or criminal behavior.

15 So the Second Chance Act, I think, is an  
16 important program, because it focuses on our  
17 older population, again, because that is our  
18 focus. That is our drive to reduce that type  
19 of child that we know can and will be involved  
20 in this type of behavior.

21 And so these are the things, Councilman,  
22 that we're trying to do. We're trying to be  
23 proactive about working with the School  
24 District. We've had meetings with them in

1      terms of certain issues with them. But I think  
2      a lot of things that we can be proactive on in  
3      terms of working with PAAN. I know -- George  
4      Mosee, we've worked with for a long time in  
5      terms of YVRP. And I'm going to ask one of my  
6      directors to speak on that. But there are  
7      certain things that we can be proactive on and  
8      try to be proactive and we have been proactive  
9      on.

10     And hopefully, these are the things that  
11    over time will decrease the number of kids  
12    being shot, because it is alarming at this  
13    particular time. And I think that we can make  
14    an impact.

15     And so I'm willing to have that  
16    conversation. And I know our Judicial  
17    Administration is willing to have that  
18    conversation. And hopefully we can continue to  
19    partner on this.

20     So thank you for allowing me to testify,  
21    Councilman, and I would ask my directors just  
22    to finish the presentation. Thank you.

23     COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Just state your name  
24    and title for the record, please?

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1                   MR. COCCRO: Joseph Coccro. I'm the  
2                   Director with the Juvenile Probation  
3                   Department, Juvenile Enforcement Team.

4                   Good afternoon, Chair Jones and the  
5                   Members of the Special Committee on Gun  
6                   Violence Prevention. As I said, I'm the  
7                   Director of the Juvenile Enforcement Team. And  
8                   I'm here today just to briefly discuss the two  
9                   specialized units within the department, which  
10                   are tasked, specifically, with combating youth  
11                   violence -- the Juvenile Enforcement Team,  
12                   commonly referred to as JET, and the Youth  
13                   Violence Reduction Partnership.

14                   For the Juvenile Enforcement Team, it's a  
15                   juvenile probation driven task force consisting  
16                   of selected members of the juvenile probation  
17                   department's armed officer program and members  
18                   of the Philadelphia Police Department.

19                   JET operates City wide with a focus on  
20                   high-risk juvenile offenders and juvenile and  
21                   gang violence within the City of Philadelphia  
22                   in an attempt to decrease violent crimes and  
23                   recidivism.

24                   Efforts are concentrated in areas that

1 indicate a rise in juvenile violence and  
2 shootings. The specific goal of the JET Unit  
3 is to devise and implement a proactive and  
4 strategic plan of action to ensure the safety  
5 of youth who fall under the Court supervision  
6 and also that of the community as it relates,  
7 again, to juvenile and gang violence.

8 JET reaches these goals through intensive  
9 investigations intelligence collections, which  
10 is a little bit different than the rest of the  
11 Probation Department is known to operate.

12 Through the use of various -- a variety of  
13 investigative tools, we are able to monitor  
14 youth who are on probation along with their  
15 known associates. We review the daily City  
16 wide police reports, including every shooting  
17 victim in the City, specifically, all shooting  
18 victims who fall under the age of 21, in  
19 coordination with the Philadelphia Police  
20 Department Criminal Intelligence Bureau.

21 We identify these individuals and we  
22 monitor all juvenile gun offenders. We conduct  
23 interviews of all juvenile probation shooting  
24 victims and their family members, as well as

1 identifying juveniles who appear to be involved  
2 in gang activity.

3 The JET unit does not carry a caseload,  
4 which differentiates us from traditional units.  
5 Rather our job is more of an investigative role  
6 than an enforcement role as it relates, again,  
7 to the safety of the youth who are identified  
8 at risk and that of the community.

9 The YVRP Unit is other component of this  
10 armed officer program. The YVRP Unit is  
11 part -- as you know -- is part of a multiagency  
12 effort aimed at reducing youth homicide by  
13 focusing on youth 14 to 24, who are most at  
14 risk to kill or be killed.

15 Again, as you know, this program is a  
16 collaborative effort within the Philadelphia  
17 Offices of Adult and Juvenile Probation, the  
18 Philadelphia Police Department, the Office of  
19 the District Attorney, and the Philadelphia  
20 Anti-Drug, Anti-Violence Network.

21 YVRP juvenile probation officers identify  
22 high-risk youth, provide intensive probation  
23 supervision and provide intensive surveillance  
24 in the designated areas within certain

1 Philadelphia Police Districts.

2       With the recent expansion that is  
3 underway, YVRP currently focuses on six police  
4 districts, however we'll expand to 12 police  
5 districts as of September of this year.

6       So in total between both units, the  
7 Juvenile Probation Department has allocated a  
8 total of 19 sworn officers, probation officers,  
9 and one analyst within these two armed units,  
10 specifically, designated to work with the most  
11 at-risk offenders. Five of which of these  
12 probation officers have been dedicated to  
13 operations at the Delaware Valley Intelligence  
14 Center, referred to as the DVIC, for  
15 intelligence gathering and information sharing  
16 purposes.

17       In accomplishing these goals, both units  
18 collaborate either in a formal or informal  
19 basis and have a good working relationship with  
20 the following offices: The Office of the  
21 Attorney General of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia  
22 Police Department, Philadelphia Adult Probation  
23 and Parole Department, Corrections, the  
24 Philadelphia District Attorney's Office,

1 Pennsylvania State Police, various federal  
2 agencies, as well as other local and bordering  
3 police jurisdictions.

4 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you.

5 Mr. George Mosee?

6 MR. MOSEE: Good afternoon. I'm honored  
7 to serve as the Executive Director for the  
8 Philadelphia Anti-Drug, Anti-Violence Network.  
9 I'm happy to report that this marks the 30th  
10 anniversary of PAAN. That means that we've  
11 been around for 30 years doing just what our  
12 name intimates -- trying to stop violence and  
13 trying to make sure that young people, and  
14 other people, as well, don't abuse drugs.

15 The interesting thing about our program is  
16 that we make house calls. I've heard from  
17 several of the people who testified. And based  
18 on some of the questions that have been asked,  
19 people recognize that sometimes there's a  
20 dilemma with regard to matching people who need  
21 the resources most with the resources.

22 Resources exist in this City, but sometimes the  
23 people who need them the most aren't able to  
24 access them, because they don't know about it.

1 The Philadelphia Anti-Drug Anti-Violence  
2 Network does, what I believe, is necessary in  
3 order to solve that dilemma.

4 I often say that sometimes a helping hand  
5 has to be attached to a very long arm. And so  
6 we are that long arm. We go into the  
7 communities that are hit hardest by violence  
8 and those are invariably the communities that  
9 are hit hardest by poverty and economic  
10 deprivation.

11 We take the resources to them, because  
12 we're talking about people who may not come to  
13 a community meeting. People who wouldn't be in  
14 Council Chambers for this hearing.

15 You'll see our vans all over the City. We  
16 have two programs that are primarily  
17 responsible for the anti-violence efforts of  
18 the Philadelphia Anti-Drug Anti-Violence  
19 Network. You've heard about the youth violence  
20 reduction partnership. Our roles we have, what  
21 we call youth partner advocates, who work  
22 individually with young people who have been  
23 deemed to be the most likely to kill or be  
24 killed in the City.

1           When they work with them, they don't just  
2   work with that individual young person, who  
3   range from ages 14 through 24 and even older,  
4   because we never cut anybody loose. But we  
5   work with their families. We work with their  
6   siblings. We work with their parents. We work  
7   with their neighbors. And in fact, we  
8   encourage them to engage in any of the programs  
9   that we have available for the youth partners.

10           That program currently assists about 600  
11  young people who have been so designated. And  
12  that's an approach that, by nature, requires  
13  that we identify the right young people.  
14  That's not an exact science, but we do a pretty  
15  good job with it working in conjunction with  
16  our partners from the DA's Office, Probation,  
17  and the Philadelphia Police Department.

18           But the genesis of PAAN actually involved  
19  a program called the Crisis Intervention  
20  Network. And Crisis wasn't relegated to  
21  individual clients. Their client was the  
22  community.

23           I'm happy to say that through the efforts  
24  of the Office of Violence Prevention and this

1 Council, PAAN now has such an entity, the  
2 Crisis Intervention Network. We call it the  
3 Community Crisis Intervention Network, which  
4 follows the model established by the old Crisis  
5 Intervention Network, which, in large part, is  
6 credited with ending turf gang warfare in the  
7 City of Philadelphia. And they did it by  
8 working with the Police Department, with the  
9 DA's office, but most importantly, by working  
10 with the people in the community.

11 And so we're once again working with the  
12 community. We're once again viewing the  
13 community as our client. And what that means  
14 is we're not reacting to the condition of  
15 someone who's already in the system. We're  
16 actually in a position to proactively go into a  
17 neighborhood, work with -- after identifying --  
18 the viable leadership, to identify young people  
19 who may not be making the right choices, but  
20 when given an alternative, will make the right  
21 choice.

22 And so our Community Crisis Intervention  
23 Program, which currently includes 15 credible  
24 messengers, who go into the toughest areas of

1 Philadelphia, seeking out young people and  
2 anyone who wants to change the course of their  
3 life. They don't go in just with good news,  
4 they go in with resources. They are armed with  
5 substantiative opportunities for people to make  
6 a different choice.

7 At this point, we're in a position, again,  
8 because of the actions of this Council and the  
9 Office of Violence Prevention to expand that  
10 operation.

11 Beginning in July, we'll be able to  
12 service an additional district during the  
13 evenings. Currently, the crisis intervention  
14 team is on the street from 6 in the evening to  
15 4 in the morning Thursday, Friday, Saturday and  
16 Sunday. We're going to add a team that will  
17 service the 15th district.

18 We're also going to add six individuals to  
19 work the crisis approach during the daylight  
20 hours. Now, certainly, six people can't cover  
21 the whole City. So what we envision doing is  
22 responding to particular crises as they occur,  
23 and to work in a coordinated way with the  
24 evening teams. So I'm excited about what we'll

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1 be able to bring to the table.

2       In closing, I have to emphasize what I  
3 always say to folks, it's Philadelphia  
4 Anti-Drug Anti-Violence Network. And the most  
5 important word is network. So we work with  
6 everybody.

7       COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

8 I have a couple questions for each one of my  
9 panelists. And I'll also have my colleagues  
10 ask questions, as well.

11       I wanted to start with Brendan O'Malley.  
12 I just want to first and foremost thank you for  
13 your leadership around the Gun Violence Task  
14 Force with the Office of the District Attorney  
15 as well as Attorney General Josh Shapiro. I'm  
16 probably a little different than most  
17 individuals, because although I want to get to  
18 the root cause of why violence is taking place  
19 in the communities -- but I also look at the  
20 law enforcement component. Tracking down where  
21 the guns are coming from, going against the  
22 guys who can care less that we're having this  
23 hearing today.

24       There's individuals who can care less that

1 I'm doing a Peace Not Gun march in the  
2 neighborhood. There's individuals who could  
3 care less when I have a job fair in the  
4 neighborhood. And I'm just having a frank  
5 conversation with you, because that's where I  
6 come from.

7 So I recognize there's some individuals,  
8 no matter how much hard work that we do to save  
9 our communities, there's some that want to be a  
10 part of the problem. And if we don't admit  
11 that, then we're fooling ourselves.

12 And when you come from that environment --  
13 and again, my family still lives in South  
14 Philly. I still live in South Philadelphia. I  
15 have some friends who don't -- I won't say  
16 friends. I just know some people who may say,  
17 Councilman, that's cool what you're doing.  
18 This is where I'm at. I'm gang game. This is  
19 what I'm about. So when I'm ready to change my  
20 lifestyle, I'll reach out to you.

21 So my first priority is to make sure  
22 children are safe when they go to and from the  
23 store. Children are safe when they go to and  
24 from school. My seniors are safe when they go

1 to and from church, when they go to and from  
2 the store. And overall, the families in my  
3 district are safe.

4 So I do pay particular attention to the  
5 work that our Gun Violence Task Force does,  
6 because we know for a fact -- there's only a  
7 small fraction of individuals who are doing a  
8 majority of the shootings in our neighborhood.  
9 And when you get Little Boo Boo off the corner  
10 or Ron Ron over there shooting up everybody,  
11 next thing you know, the whole summer is quiet.

12 And I also speak for family members who  
13 have lost loved ones to gun violence, because  
14 they want closure. And the work that you do is  
15 so significantly important, as well as all of  
16 the work.

17 When I pay attention to how we're tracking  
18 where the guns are coming from and actually  
19 going after the guys who just -- that's what  
20 they do in terms of shooting up our  
21 neighborhoods.

22 So lets talk about the level of staff that  
23 you have in terms of covering in the  
24 Philadelphia region. I know you do work -- the

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1 Attorney General covers the state as the whole.

2 MR. O'MALLEY: Correct.

3 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Let's talk about the  
4 City of Philadelphia, just in general, in terms  
5 of staffing levels, the amount of cases that  
6 you guys have to actually target to go over.

7 I know there was a recent indictment of  
8 some individuals that you talked about -- and  
9 that whole neighborhood is quiet now. I  
10 haven't heard anything happening in Grays  
11 Ferry, maybe one or two small things.

12 But nevertheless, just give us an update  
13 in terms of the level of manpower that's  
14 utilized in terms of the work that you're  
15 doing.

16 MR. O'MALLEY: So on the Attorney General  
17 side, as of April 2019, we are finally fully  
18 staffed with two complements of nine agents  
19 each in two squads. And those 9 -- those 18  
20 agents are embedded in the six detective  
21 divisions across the City. And they are  
22 primarily responsible for looking into every  
23 crime gun that is recovered in the City.

24 Now, as you know, there's anywhere from

1 3,500 to 5,000 crime guns in the City. We  
2 open, as I had indicated before, our  
3 productivity is up. But it will look like --  
4 in this calendar year, we'll probably open  
5 about 600 cases. So it's a small portion of  
6 the guns that are recovered that we actually  
7 are able to open cases on with the limited  
8 resources that we have.

9 In terms of the DA side of the house, as I  
10 had mentioned before, seven DA's primarily  
11 focused on the day-to-day straw purchases and  
12 background check violations.

13 But to your point, what we've been able to  
14 do is expand the larger investigation, the use  
15 of the grand jury, we have several agents that  
16 are also task force officers with the FBI,  
17 United States Marshal Service.

18 So we are -- we'd like to do more with  
19 more resources, but right now, we are fully  
20 staffed at our levels. And that allows us to  
21 handle the day-to-day crime guns that come in.  
22 We primarily split that with the Philly Police  
23 Department Gun Violence Reduction Task Force.  
24 And our DAs are able to handle these caseloads.

1           As I mentioned before, they also have a  
2 caseload in the Eastern District of  
3 Pennsylvania with federal cases. So some of  
4 our cases are also being handled down there by  
5 our specially designated DAs.

6           But we also have two assistant district  
7 attorneys that are able to run on these larger  
8 scale investigations, which, as you know, are  
9 extremely successful at targeting -- to your  
10 point -- the very limited amount of crime  
11 drivers that are shooting and they are getting  
12 shot. Pretty much everyone that we had  
13 arrested in our initiative in March was either  
14 getting shot at or was actually physically shot  
15 leading up to the months of the arrest.

16           So we are having a fair amount of success  
17 with those larger scale organizations and the  
18 larger scale investigations. But  
19 unfortunately, we are not the Major Trials  
20 Units. We don't have 30 DAs. We're not the  
21 Homicide Unit. We don't have the capacity to  
22 handle a large volume of cases. But I think  
23 that in many ways, that helps us to be more  
24 selective at targeting the worst of the worst

1 drivers in each of these neighbors.

2 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Talk about the level  
3 of support. I know the US Attorney's Office  
4 has stepped up their efforts to be involved in  
5 violent crime that's taking place, here, in  
6 City of Philadelphia.

7 How are they supplementing the efforts of  
8 what you're actually doing now?

9 MR. O'MALLEY: So they are adopting a lot  
10 more cases, as you may have heard. They are  
11 communicating directly with the Detective  
12 Division and Special Investigation Units. We  
13 are in constant contact with the Chief of the  
14 Violent Crimes Unit regarding cases that are  
15 worthy of prosecution.

16 I'm currently assigned to a case in which  
17 an individual was arrested with an unserialized  
18 AR-15, an AR-15 ghost gun, and four pistols,  
19 two of which were modified to be fully  
20 automatic.

21 So those are the types of individuals  
22 which we can get long prison sentences to keep  
23 the public safe. It's an unfortunate -- as you  
24 know and what has been said before today, it's

1 an unfortunate fact that there are certain  
2 individuals who just cannot be on the street as  
3 a danger to themselves or others.

4       And we are seeing the affects of a more  
5 robust US attorney program focusing on gun  
6 violence. And as I have indicated before,  
7 currently in our unit there are four people  
8 that are special assistant US attorneys with a  
9 fifth in the pipeline. And we actually look  
10 forward to expanding that program and possibly  
11 have two full-time deputy attorney generals  
12 that are assigned to the Eastern District of  
13 Pennsylvania and handling nothing but gun  
14 cases.

15       COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Is there a database  
16 that tracks individuals who are -- have been  
17 arrested for carrying guns?

18       MR. O'MALLEY: I would say that that would  
19 primarily be the responsibility of the DVIC.  
20 And we would not, as prosecutors, do that. But  
21 we work closely with the DVIC to understand and  
22 see individuals that have been arrested  
23 multiple times for gun possession.

24       COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Okay. I'll refer

1 that to Commissioner Ross, as well. But I just  
2 wanted to ask that question.

3           And Mr. George Mosee, please give me an  
4 update -- I know the PAAN Crisis Team has been  
5 up, for roughly a year now. Just give me an  
6 update on what you think has been the most  
7 effective of your team that works from 6 to 4  
8 a.m. in the morning -- they've been out with  
9 myself addressing homicide, doing outreach  
10 inside the community.

11           Give us an update on where your team is  
12 at. But also, I have some questions regarding  
13 their presence on the strategy standpoint when  
14 they are out in the community.

15           I was doing an on your block session.  
16 That's when I come out and talk to the  
17 residents. And I always talk about this  
18 particular program. And a young lady  
19 challenged me and said, Well, where? Where are  
20 they? When do they come through South  
21 Philadelphia? And to be quite frank with you,  
22 I didn't have a response other than I know they  
23 come out when I call them. When there's a  
24 homicide, they always come out and go on the

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1 street with me.

2       When the average person says where's this  
3 crisis team at in the 17th Police District,  
4 Councilman? How do I respond?

5       MR. MOSEE: I guess you have to point out  
6 the reality that the team is comprised of three  
7 people. South Philly is a big area, you know,  
8 you try to get from the 1st to the 17th,  
9 depending on traffic, it can take you an hour  
10 and a half -- maybe that's an exaggeration,  
11 maybe it isn't.

12       But three people trying to cover all that  
13 ground --

14       COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: We're small in South  
15 Philly. The 1st and 17th is like two blocks  
16 away from each other -- actually, it's about  
17 five block. It's not even -- Oregon and  
18 Federal. But go ahead, I'm just joking.

19       MR. MOSEE: So it's very difficult for me  
20 to say that that person you spoke to should  
21 have seen them. They are working from 6 to 4  
22 in the morning. Maybe that person isn't out  
23 from 6 to 4 in the morning. In fact, that is  
24 one of the things we have to analyze, maybe

1 that's a good time if you're talking about  
2 making contact with the people who want to make  
3 bad choices. Maybe it's not the best time to  
4 meet with the viable leadership of the  
5 community.

6 And so, as I indicated earlier, I'm very  
7 happy that the Office of Violence Prevention  
8 and this Council have seen fit to provide  
9 funding for daytime staff, who can go to the  
10 meetings.

11 I mean, if we convene at the Philadelphia  
12 Anti-Drug Anti-Violence Network at 6:00 when  
13 the shift starts, we finally hit the road at,  
14 say, 6:45, 7:00. By the time we get to the  
15 community, it's already 7:30. A lot of people  
16 are off the street, you know? And they are out  
17 there canvassing, meeting with folks,  
18 responding to incidents that happened, going to  
19 the hospitals. The vast majority of the people  
20 are not going to interact with them considering  
21 where they go and the time that they're there.

22 I do believe, however, that we are known.  
23 I think that one of the key partners is the  
24 Police Department. And I believe that if you

1 would ask your captains in South Philadelphia,  
2 like the captains in West Philadelphia, they  
3 all know us. And I think we've done a really  
4 excellent job of developing a rapport with the  
5 Department. They recognize that, you know,  
6 we're not stumbling over one another. We're  
7 not trying to do their job, but they recognize  
8 that we serve a role that we function in the  
9 capacity that they can't. And so to that  
10 extent, it's mutually beneficial.

11 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Just one brief  
12 recommendation -- and, again, I know the great  
13 work that your team has been doing, because  
14 oftentimes, when there's a homicide in the  
15 neighborhood and I'm out talking to neighbors,  
16 the first group I call to ask to back me up and  
17 support me is PAAN.

18 And after the graduation party was shot up  
19 last week in Southwest Philadelphia, it was  
20 PAAN who walked the streets with me and talked  
21 to the neighbors.

22 And a lot of the times they say, What are  
23 you doing these marches or these walks for?  
24 It's not for the television show. It's not for

1 anything. It's about letting the residents  
2 know that they are not out here alone. It's  
3 letting them know that they won't be hostages  
4 inside their own home.

5 And we had some of the young people at the  
6 last event from an organization called No Mo.  
7 And they brought out a whole bunch of you  
8 people out to participate. And the point is,  
9 to that next generation of young people that's  
10 about something positive, they can recognize  
11 that they are being supported, as well, and not  
12 just the bad guys are running the street,  
13 shooting up everybody and everything in sight.  
14 And so we do thank your team from that aspect.

15 But I would recommend with your daytime  
16 team, most community meetings take place about  
17 6:00. Have a representative there to talk  
18 about the work that the Crisis Intervention  
19 Team is doing, what PAAN is doing, the services  
20 that y'all offer that can help get these young  
21 guys off the street. I think that just makes  
22 the organization much stronger. And we'll be  
23 supporting from a support standpoint on that  
24 end, as well.

1           So before I turn it over to my colleagues,  
2   my last question to Mr. Castro is you said  
3   there's going to be three ERSC centers. I want  
4   to know where those centers are going to be.

5           Two, I'd like to focus between 4 to 12,  
6   because a lot of times we talk at the after  
7   school hours -- what is it? 3 to 6, right?  
8   When the reality is 4 to 12, that's when the  
9   young guys out there up to doing any and  
10   everything.

11          And so when you talk about that timeframe,  
12   I think that's critically important, as well,  
13   because, you know, the last shooting that  
14   happened in my District, about 7:00 in the  
15   afternoon, 23rd and Moore, right? And it  
16   wasn't dark outside.

17          And then the week before that, in the  
18   middle of the daytime. So that daytime period,  
19   particularly around 4 to 12, is always a good  
20   targeting area. But where are the three ERC  
21   centers going to be?

22          MR. JIMENEZ: So currently there are two,  
23   but there are two new ones that are being  
24   created, which is the after care ERC. And

1 basically a second one, which is an  
2 interventional ERC, as an alternative to  
3 placement.

4 The RFP is being developed. Hopefully by  
5 this year's end, we'll have something completed  
6 and will be put out by the Department of Human  
7 Services in terms of our resources. And so  
8 that is my hope, that by the end of the year,  
9 these two will be. And then we'll have  
10 contractors that will bid for the services.

11 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: What's the percentage  
12 of young people under the JET Program or AVR  
13 who are on probation for carrying guns? What's  
14 your number, percentage number?

15 MR. JIMENEZ: So Councilman, I can get you  
16 that number. I know we track that number in  
17 terms of the kids that get adjudicated  
18 delinquent on VUFA charges, or Violation of  
19 Uniform Firearms Act.

20 So we can get that number for you. I know  
21 we've tracked that in the past and possibly we  
22 can provide that.

23 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: That would be very,  
24 very helpful if you provide that information.

1           Councilwoman Helen Gym?

2           COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Thank you very much,

3           Mr. Chairman.

4           So my question is for Mr. Castro-Jimenez.

5           It's great to have you here. I really  
6           appropriate it. I mean, I think that the  
7           Council -- our Chairman and myself -- have been  
8           heavily invested in the youth that are exiting  
9           from residential treatment, because we believe  
10           that, especially for them, when we talk about  
11           gun violence in our City, we talk about young  
12           people at risk. There are among one of the  
13           highest.

14           One of the reasons we've been so  
15           aggressive about going after some of the  
16           facilities and making sure that they do right  
17           by our young people is because they come home  
18           to us. And if they are experiencing violence,  
19           they are getting poor educational programming  
20           in those facilities where we send them for --  
21           it should be for short term, but sometimes it  
22           ends up being for years, then we have a bigger  
23           problem on our hands when they come back here.

24           So I'm really interested in your work.

1 And in particular, I wanted to ask about your  
2 comments about the School District of  
3 Philadelphia. And who you normally deal with  
4 and why -- what are the barriers that you think  
5 that you have in terms of working with School  
6 Districts? And I'm curious about whether you  
7 think the barriers are mostly at the 440  
8 level -- like is it at the District level? Or  
9 are you having problems with the individual  
10 schools where the young people go back to?

11 MR. JIMENEZ: Thank you for the question,  
12 Councilwoman. So I've been working -- we've  
13 been working, Probation has been working, with  
14 Rachel Holtzman. And she's a representative of  
15 the School District. I believe she's the  
16 Deputy Chief -- is her official title. We've  
17 been having preliminary meetings in terms of  
18 the coordination, collaboration, and how do we  
19 support youth that actually have been shot in  
20 communities and youth that actually are in  
21 school system and are duly supervised by us and  
22 by the School District, as well.

23 In terms of barriers, we have not had  
24 barriers, because we just started this

1 conversation. And we are sharing information.  
2 We are, also, sharing information in terms of  
3 the liaison with the police that is stationed  
4 at the School District.

5 So my hope is that we can increase the  
6 information sharing. Because as we increase  
7 information sharing, we realize that some of  
8 these issues that are germane to the School  
9 District are also germane to us, because it's  
10 our population. It's our kids.

11 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Absolutely. I'll say  
12 this, Rachel Holtzman, has come out of the  
13 General Counsel's Office. She usually tends to  
14 take a legal approach. She's not an educator.  
15 She's not psychologist. She's not, now know --  
16 there's a number of things that she has a great  
17 skill set in, but that would not be it.

18 My guess is that you're interested in how  
19 the young people adapt once they are in school.  
20 It's not about what laws and rules they follow  
21 or break; is that correct?

22 MR. JIMENEZ: That's correct.

23 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: So I would be  
24 interested in making sure that you do connect

1 with the School District's Office of School  
2 Support. You should definitely be connecting  
3 with Academic Support. I want us to do this in  
4 part together, because I want to know that if  
5 I'm taking this much effort to bring our young  
6 people home and away from out of county  
7 facilities. I want to be responsible in making  
8 sure that they have the right transition when  
9 they come back into the school setting.

10 That's the most critical time period,  
11 actually, because that transition away from a  
12 place that they could adapt to, back to a place  
13 where it's kind of chaotic and they're sort of  
14 falling through the cracks. Like that is a  
15 very dangerous place for us. And if we're not  
16 on it -- and we don't have like thousands of  
17 kids, last time I checked, we have like 300; is  
18 that right?

19 MR. JIMENEZ: 264 kids.

20 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: So we have to track 260  
21 some kids that are recently adjudicated, come  
22 back into school. We have to prove that what  
23 worked when they went away has to work when  
24 they come back in.

1           And the partnership with the School  
2       District is particularly important. I think  
3       they are traditionally left out of a lot of  
4       these conversations, which is a big problem for  
5       us, because they are such a major part of a  
6       child's life. They know things that a lot of  
7       families don't know. They know things that a  
8       lot of us outside -- so I'm very interested in  
9       working with you on that.

10           MR. JIMENEZ: Just one of the things that  
11       we do have in place is we have, actually, a  
12       probation officer at the School District at  
13       their transitional center.

14           And so every child that is sent to  
15       placement and is returning back into our  
16       communities, they are immediately referred to  
17       that probation officer, who then coordinates  
18       with the school personnel to ensure that  
19       transcripts are coming back from the  
20       residential placement and are credited and the  
21       youth is actually placed in their community  
22       school or an alternative school, based on the  
23       grades, based upon the curriculum to ensure  
24       that the kids are actually transitioning within

1 72 hours and assigned to a school within 72  
2 hours. So we've had success in terms of that.

3 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Is that new?

4 MR. JIMENEZ: No. That's been around for  
5 some time. That's been a process that's been  
6 around for some time. And it's been working.

7 We've decreased the number of kids in  
8 residential placement significantly since about  
9 2005. I think there was a point where we had  
10 close to 2,000 kids for delinquency placements.  
11 And, I mean, we're at an all time low at only  
12 264. Granted, we need to get better at that,  
13 and we are getting better at that.

14 But the fact of the matter is we're  
15 looking for resources, which is why I think the  
16 evening reporting centers is so key, because  
17 the second one that is being formed is being  
18 formed for the purposes of not sending kids to  
19 placements.

20 But if we can get those things in place  
21 and offer those academic supports and system  
22 supports and things that we know that the child  
23 needs to progress well and to transition  
24 successfully out of probation supervision, then

1    we've done our jobs in terms of having them  
2    become citizens of this City.

3            COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Who determines of the  
4    placement of the young people in the particular  
5    high school? Is that left up to the School  
6    District or is that something that you have any  
7    voice in?

8            MR. JIMENEZ: No. That's the School  
9    District that determines that.

10          COUNCILWOMAN GYM: And then do you  
11   track -- do you notice that some schools get  
12   concentrated with the number of young people  
13   who return from placement?

14          MR. JIMENEZ: I would have to get back to  
15   you in terms of the School District's --

16          COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Can you get back to me  
17   with the numbers on that?

18          MR. JIMENEZ: Yes.

19          COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Because that would be  
20   helpful.

21          The second thing I would say is the  
22   biggest complaint I hear from principals --  
23   while I appreciate we want an efficient  
24   transition into a school setting, because I

1 think many of the young people -- well, I'll  
2 say this. We do want an efficient transition,  
3 but our experiences, having spent 10 months on  
4 this task force, has been that the educational  
5 programs within many of the residential  
6 treatment facilities is far and a par with zero  
7 oversight from the State.

8 You know this very well, that many of them  
9 sometimes don't have transcripts, that we  
10 struggle to get transcripts. We talk to young  
11 people who really see their transcripts and  
12 their course work fall through the cracks.

13 I've witnessed quality treatment centers  
14 where there's a one room. There may be -- I'm  
15 guessing the teacher is certified, but they are  
16 probably six years transmitted between the  
17 number of kids that are there. There's no  
18 library. There's no textbook. There are no  
19 computers.

20 For them to move into -- they are not  
21 going to a magnet school. Most of them are  
22 blocked from charter schools. They're landing  
23 in neighborhood high schools. So they're  
24 landing in schools that are 600, 500 -- way

1 bigger than what they've been used to. Many of  
2 them have been decimated in terms of support.

3 We have only just started -- in September,  
4 we will have a social worker assigned to almost  
5 every single neighborhood high school. I think  
6 two of them are left out. And that will be the  
7 first time that we have a social worker  
8 assigned.

9 The complaint that I hear most often from  
10 principals who receive large numbers of kids --  
11 and because of the School District, the way  
12 they tend to do things, is they'll dump them in  
13 batches in certain schools, you know, I know  
14 they are trying to rethink that a little bit.

15 But the principals feel for it.

16 So these kids come back. It's 72 hours.  
17 They have barely gained their -- they are all  
18 trying to figure out what's going on.  
19 Reuniting with family can be pretty traumatic,  
20 too, for them. They've been away. Some of  
21 them have been in terrible settings. Some of  
22 them have been harassed, beaten because -- for  
23 God knows what. We don't even have state laws  
24 that prohibit those damn -- those things. And,

1 you know, it is an issue.

2 So when they come back into the school  
3 setting within 72 hours, it's a pretty rapid  
4 transition.

5 And the thing that I'm interested -- and I  
6 don't expect you to answer all of this -- but I  
7 want my Council colleagues and ourselves to  
8 talk with yourself, Mr. Castro-Jimenez, and  
9 your team, because I think that transition is a  
10 problem. It's rapid. It's sudden. The  
11 principals feel unprepared.

12 They often are not made aware ahead of  
13 time -- obviously, there's privacy records that  
14 we have to be aware of -- but we just have to  
15 be thoughtful that in our interest for  
16 efficient transition, it's not like they are  
17 landing at the most -- they are not landing at  
18 a school that is most outfitted to handle them.  
19 Sometimes they are landing in schools that are  
20 struggling to handle them, and those things can  
21 also compound upon each other.

22 So two questions -- one, can we meet? I  
23 mean, I would love for us to talk and meet.

24 MR. JIMENEZ: Absolutely.

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1           COUNCILWOMAN GYM: We have a task force  
2    that's devoted to the residential treatment  
3    facilities. We have a set of -- we have a  
4    series of recommendations. The School District  
5    is at the table. You are not the table I don't  
6    believe, right, I don't think Probation is at  
7    the table.

8           MR. JIMENEZ: I'm not at the table, but  
9    there's a Court representative at the table  
10    that represents the court.

11          COUNCILWOMAN GYM: That's true. But we  
12    should keep a very active line of communication  
13    between us.

14          Second, can I have your testimony? I  
15    don't think -- was it pre-printed for us? I  
16    don't think so. If you can send it over to the  
17    Chairman, that would be great.

18          MR. JIMENEZ: I will.

19          COUNCILWOMAN GYM: And I'll use that.

20          And then third, could you just help me  
21    with that question -- where are the young  
22    people going? How many of them are coming  
23    back? Any other additional information that  
24    you think that we can be helpful.

1           My interest is to help and facilitate the  
2   transition of these young people from treatment  
3   back into the school setting and back into  
4   child youth, childhood, whatever it is, to make  
5   it as easy as possible.

6           MR. JIMENEZ: And it's an important issue.  
7   But I can say that most of the data that you're  
8   looking for, that's covered by the School  
9   District, because they are the ones that  
10   actually place the child in school and assign  
11   the child within 72 hours.

12           We're a part of the process in terms of  
13   getting transcripts and ensuring that our kids  
14   are transitioning well and we have somebody  
15   there. But the School District is the one that  
16   makes that final decision.

17           And so we can reach out to the School  
18   District and let them know that you're seeking  
19   this information. But yes, they would be the  
20   owners of that record.

21           COUNCILWOMAN GYM: And I want you to know  
22   that the Chairman and myself and other council  
23   members have really made those young people in  
24   residential treatment one of our top

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1 priorities. We want them to know that we're  
2 looking out for them. We're trying to change  
3 the system and we want to make it better.

4 And I know you're going to help us do that  
5 and figure that out with the School District in  
6 particular. So thank you very much.

7 Thank you, Chairman.

8 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: No. Thank you,  
9 Councilwoman, for sticking around. Councilman  
10 Curtis Jones, welcome back.

11 Before we bring up individuals for public  
12 comment, Councilman Curtis Jones, do you have  
13 any questions?

14 COUNCILMAN JONES: No, I don't.

15 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: I want to thank all  
16 three of you for your testimony today as we  
17 roll up our sleeves and work collaboratively to  
18 address this issue of gun violence, here, in  
19 the City of Philadelphia. And I just wanted to  
20 thank you very much.

21 So in terms of public comment, I'm going  
22 to ask for Dr. Gregory Holston to please come  
23 on up, Shira Goodman to please come up. And  
24 one other individual who has an interest in

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1 speaking to please come on up to the table.

2 (Witnesses approached witness table.)

3 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: I want to thank you  
4 for your time, your interest in this matter.

5 As I stated before -- and originally, this  
6 was a hearing focusing on the work and the  
7 strategies of the Administration, but decided  
8 this morning, because individuals who also came  
9 said they wanted to speak for the record on  
10 this topic, that we would open it up.

11 If you could also take into consideration  
12 between two to three minutes in your remarks  
13 and your recommendations feel free, but we'll  
14 be around.

15 And I also recognize that all of you were  
16 here from 11:00 this morning. So take your  
17 time, as well. We're not rushing, just speak  
18 as you need to as it relates to the public  
19 testimony part of this hearing.

20 And I'm going to start with Ms. Shira  
21 Goodman. Just state your name, for the record,  
22 and title.

23 MS. GOODMAN: Thank you, Chairman. My  
24 name is Shira Goodman. I'm the executive

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1 director of CeaseFirePA. We're a statewide gun  
2 violence prevention group. Our mission is the  
3 end the epidemic of gun violence across the  
4 Commonwealth and the country through education,  
5 coalition building and advocacy. I'll be very  
6 brief.

7 Thank you for giving us this time. I know  
8 there are many people -- survivors, victims,  
9 other community partners -- who wanted to have  
10 this opportunity, and so I would encourage  
11 you -- but because it's only Councilman Jones  
12 and Councilman Johnson, I hope you'll ask your  
13 colleagues -- I think that they should hold  
14 these hearings in their own Districts and hear  
15 from the community. The good work that's going  
16 on there, what they need in terms of funding,  
17 what we need to do together.

18 Clearly, Harrisburg and Washington are not  
19 coming to save Philadelphia. This is on us,  
20 all of us, this is on you. CeaseFirePA is  
21 fighting hard against preemption, imputative  
22 preemption, trying to get more power for cities  
23 like Philadelphia to pass their own ordinances,  
24 trying to protect Philadelphia when it takes

1 those actions. But to solve this immediate  
2 crisis, this emergency, will be on us.

3 You've heard about some of the things  
4 that, I think, are very important. The gun  
5 tracing initiative that the Attorney General's  
6 Office spoke about is something we've been  
7 talking to the police and the Mayor and City  
8 Council and the Office of Violence Prevention  
9 and the Governor about for a long time. So  
10 we're happy that it's going to happen.

11 We need to know where these guns are  
12 coming from. And we need Philadelphia to be a  
13 leader on this in the State and to say even if  
14 the State is not ready to do it, Philadelphia  
15 is -- to share that data, to get that data, and  
16 then to give us a report, to give you a report,  
17 about where those guns are coming from, where  
18 they are moving, the ZIP codes that they're  
19 traveling between -- time from last legal  
20 purchase to crime, distance from last legal  
21 purchase to crime. That will help you and  
22 Harrisburg develop better policies.

23 The ghost guns that DA Krasner talked  
24 about, the plastic guns, they are not just

1 plastic, they're metal. And you can buy parts.  
2 And New Jersey has now made them illegal. And  
3 so people are getting them shipped here to  
4 Pennsylvania.

5 So once again, this isn't just a  
6 Philadelphia problem. We have broad problems.  
7 We need money. We need to listen to the  
8 people.

9 In the last couple weeks, we've been  
10 talking to lots of folks. We've been working  
11 with POWER. My colleagues are here. We came  
12 last week to City Council. The galleries were  
13 full of people who wanted to talk to you.

14 So I do urge you to listen to your  
15 constituents, because I think the people on the  
16 ground who are suffering, who are afraid, who  
17 are coming up with creative solutions have  
18 really important things to say.

19 One thing I have been asking for, for a  
20 long time of the Mayor and the Office of  
21 Violence Prevention is to convene us all  
22 together. I know a lot of these folks, but  
23 there's people I meet for the first time every  
24 time. And CeaseFirePA, although we're a good

1 partner, we don't necessarily have the  
2 convening power that City Council or the Mayor  
3 or the Governor has to get everybody in a room.  
4 We can help with the logistics afterwards. We  
5 can help with the follow up. But we need your  
6 juice, as it were, to get people in that room.

7 We're a good partner. We don't get money  
8 from the City or the State or the Feds. So  
9 we're not competing with these folks. We just  
10 want to support each other and do that.

11 But Philadelphia is definitely hurting.  
12 We've seen a lot of pain. We're seeing people  
13 come out. And people took a lot of time off to  
14 be here today. So I think it's important to  
15 hear from the Police Chief and the DA and the  
16 Attorney General and all the folks you heard  
17 from. But I think that Council People need to  
18 hear from their constituents.

19 And so I'd hold you to urge those hearing  
20 and meetings in your districts. And I know  
21 that that some of our legislators who are  
22 coming back are fighting for these things. But  
23 they are doing other fights now, too. The  
24 budget that's going to hurt Philadelphia and

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1 the people who are suffering is not going to  
2 help the neighborhoods that are suffering  
3 already. And we're going to fight that. And  
4 we're going to fight the effort to put more  
5 guns in our school, which is going on again  
6 right now.

7 So we have a lot -- we're fighting on a  
8 lot of fronts. We want to be there for all of  
9 that. And we think we have a lot more work to  
10 do. And we are in a crisis. So thank you for  
11 recognizing that and we hope that we'll  
12 continue to have these opportunities.

13 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you. Please  
14 state your name.

15 REVERAND DAVIS: Reverend Jeanette Davis.  
16 I just want to say thank you, Councilman  
17 Johnson and Councilman Jones, for allowing me  
18 this opportunity to speak. We have been here  
19 all day. And a lot of things that I had in my  
20 notes, you guys have already went over. I'm  
21 going to be brief, because of time constraints.

22 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Take your time.

23 REVERAND DAVIS: So my name is Reverend  
24 Jeanette Davis. I am the Director of D.I.V.A.S

1 Ministry Group and the president. I also sit  
2 on POWER's clergy caucus.

3 And I'm today to advocate on behalf of  
4 community members, residents, myself. And  
5 we're outraged at the increase of the gun  
6 violence in our City and the lack of attention  
7 that it received up until recently.

8 There are so many issues focusing on in  
9 our society, that we have now lost perspective  
10 to the importance of humanity. And that human  
11 life is God's creation. And there should be no  
12 other focus or priority that should come first  
13 in precedence. This should oversee it all --  
14 plans, projects or initiatives -- human life.

15 So we're here today to request for three  
16 things. One, which would be accountability.  
17 The other immediate action and change.

18 The accountability of to whom which is  
19 given, whom which is required.

20 As city officials, you know, you guys have  
21 taken an oath to serve God's people and as  
22 public servant the ensure that the City's  
23 residents and tax paying constituents are able  
24 to reside in a safe and healthy community.

1           We have -- we've listened to the idle  
2 talk.  We've set up countless unproductive  
3 meetings, we've marched, we rallied, we  
4 protest.  And yet somehow we wind up still  
5 here, right here, with no real concrete  
6 solutions.

7           So I'm coming from a Christian standpoint.  
8 The Bible declares that faithful that work is  
9 dead.  And that's exactly what we're seeing  
10 across our City, death.  And Jesus already paid  
11 the price and died on the cross and bled on the  
12 cross.  So the residents of Philadelphia  
13 shouldn't have to do that.

14          I'm just really upset here.  And I want to  
15 go over the change that we need.  We need to  
16 start investing the resources in people instead  
17 of initiatives and projects.  I think that's  
18 where we're missing the mark.  The investment  
19 should go to our schools, our jobs, housing,  
20 health care.  And human rights that are proven  
21 to address the causes of violence.

22          In the process of creating change, we need  
23 to recognize the community nonprofit  
24 organization, because they are truly the

1 heartbeat of the community. They can reach.  
2 They interact. There are a lot of nonprofit  
3 organization who are actually on the ground  
4 doing the work. They never get the  
5 recognition. They don't get proper funding, so  
6 this is a problem.

7       And if we want to talk about how we  
8 correct a wrong I, think we should go in the  
9 direction where we get these resources out into  
10 the community through these community  
11 organizations.

12       Now, the research has proven that every 10  
13 additional organizations focusing on violence  
14 and community life in a City with 100,000  
15 residents leads to a 9 percent reduction in the  
16 murder rate. And a 6 percent reduction in the  
17 violent crime rate. And 4 percent reduction in  
18 the property crime rate.

19       So as it opposes to immediate action, I  
20 believe that we can immediately start targeting  
21 Philadelphia's five ZIP codes with the highest  
22 rates of gun violence with additional  
23 resources, the funding that I keep referring  
24 to.

1           We can immediately start by the revision  
2       and the implementation of new policies and  
3       initiatives.

4           Last week, there was a bishop who did the  
5       opening prayer for last Thursday's event. And  
6       what he said when he opened up, if we keep  
7       doing the same old things the same old way, we  
8       will keep getting the same results.

9           So I just believe that it's time for us,  
10       in order for us to create change, as I said,  
11       that we have to start looking at this thing  
12       from a different perspective. We have to start  
13       doing things that we normally wouldn't do and  
14       focus on people and community.

15           And I'm not saying that you haven't been,  
16       because I've actually been to your district --  
17       our organization has been to your district  
18       affairs. So I know your heart and your motive  
19       about people and community. I know your love  
20       for that.

21           I'm just asking here today that if you  
22       could express this to the rest of the Council,  
23       President Darrell Clarke, the rest of the City  
24       Council. I really want them to be able to hear

1 the people. It's the people who we need to  
2 listen to, because these are the people who  
3 entrusted and believed in you enough and gave  
4 you the vote to be in this position.

5 In closing, I want to say that we need to  
6 begin to open the rec centers and increase  
7 extended hours for our youth, by creating  
8 guaranteed summer employment for our youth and  
9 offering counseling, conflict resolution,  
10 meditation around the clock.

11 And in closing, I also want to add, I  
12 really want to know where the church is in all  
13 of this. Because it's not a you problem. It's  
14 not a me problem. It's a we problem. So, we,  
15 the church, we have a responsibility, as well.  
16 That's one of my questions as to where the  
17 church is.

18 And in stating that, I am the ministerial  
19 aid on behalf of our bishop, Mary Floyd Palmer.

20 And Philadelphia Council Clergy stands in  
21 solidarity along with POWER and the other  
22 alliance, CeaseFire, the 30 Elite Club. We're  
23 all in alliance together. She stands in  
24 solidarity. And what she wishes to do with the

1 implemented initiative called the Healing  
2 Project. And we all know that her father,  
3 Dr. Melvin Floyd, he's been fighting gun  
4 violence for decades. So she wishes to  
5 implement this and be a part of the alliance  
6 and the coalition.

7 And in closing, I'm going to read this  
8 from 2nd Chronicles, 7, 14, if my people, who  
9 are called by my name, will humble themselves  
10 and pray and seek my faith and turn away from  
11 their wicked ways, then I will hear from  
12 heaven. I will forgive their sin, and I will  
13 heal their land.

14 I thank you very much for hearing my  
15 testimony.

16 (Round of applause.)

17 MR. WOODALL: Good afternoon. We started  
18 this morning, like y'all said, Arnett Woodall,  
19 community scholar, University of Penn, owner  
20 and builder of West Philadelphia Produce, CEO  
21 of A&W Community Solutions, and also the CEO of  
22 the West Market Street Improvement Association.

23 My work has worked for most. As a matter  
24 of fact, Councilman Kenyatta Johnson used to

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1 live on 53rd and Lebanon for a brief time --  
2 yeah. My youth group, that still works in the  
3 City of Philadelphia, used to cut your grass.

4 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: My sister, yeah.

5 MR. WOODALL: Your sister's house, that's  
6 right. Before you were Council --

7 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: I remember now.

8 MR. WOODALL: -- my programs ran across  
9 this city and still run across this city from  
10 North Philly all the way across.

11 I used to be a teacher aide disciplinarian  
12 in the Juvenile Prison System. I ran the  
13 vocations. I created the on grounds work  
14 program for the Juvenile Prison System. I left  
15 the Prison System in 2001, and started A&W  
16 Community Solutions to hire the youth across  
17 the City of Philadelphia. And since 2001, I've  
18 been doing just that.

19 I don't need to tell you more, but West  
20 Philadelphia Produce is built on a drug lot in  
21 West Philadelphia, where all your heroin, crack  
22 and coke -- your hottest area in West  
23 Philadelphia in 2002.

24 When Delaware County built a shelter on

1 63rd and Market Street, the Life Center, all of  
2 the opioid addicted people from Delaware County  
3 moved to West Philadelphia. That's supply and  
4 demand -- brought needles and everything right  
5 to West Philadelphia on a lot that's been open  
6 now for 10 years run by the youth in the  
7 community from across the City of Philadelphia.

8 John Jay University, the number one  
9 criminal justice university on the planet has  
10 deemed us the model for all communities across  
11 the country, because the only model that they  
12 see is to have the youth built into the  
13 economics right now.

14 Your paying group, that just got finished  
15 testifying, they're at West Philadelphia  
16 Produce working right now. And they are on the  
17 West Market Street Corridor clearing up your  
18 area and Councilwoman Blackwell's area under  
19 the West Philadelphia Community Clean Team,  
20 which has been up and operating now for 10  
21 years funded by myself. \$1.8 million out of  
22 pocket on my programs, unable to get any grants  
23 or any support or any help from City Hall yet.

24 Three weeks ago, you just saw a mother and

1 child shielded in a gun battle in West  
2 Philadelphia at 1:30 in the afternoon, where  
3 you see a store owner that shielded -- go to  
4 Fox News. Google anything I'm telling you,  
5 because I'm going to get you a bunch of links.

6 As a matter of fact, I'd like somebody to  
7 pass this stuff to the Councilman right now.  
8 Because my town watch organization has been  
9 running for 15 years. You introduced this,  
10 Councilman Curtis Jones.

11 My town watch gets funded zero dollars.  
12 And the paper that -- this is all I get for  
13 town watch -- is a piece of paper. Where's the  
14 support at for the people in communities?  
15 You're going to push community policing through  
16 the Police Department. And I wish they were  
17 here so that they could hear this, because your  
18 community policing is called community policing  
19 for one reason and one reason only. Community  
20 policing is done by the community. And you're  
21 not empowering your community to help in this  
22 situation.

23 And by keep empowering the police officers  
24 to do singing in the community and dancing in

1 the community and playing football in the  
2 community, it's not community policing.  
3 Community policing can only be done by the  
4 community. And that's why it's called  
5 community policing. So you can stop --  
6 everyone can stop playing that game with us  
7 talking about community policing.

8 You're not trained in the community, for  
9 one, on how to avoid being shot in the cross  
10 fire. This is a 40 caliber bullet that y'all  
11 CSI crew left at my scene, when I just saved  
12 that mother and daughter from that shoot out.  
13 One had his 45 caliber automatic weapon. The  
14 other one had a 40 caliber automatic weapon.  
15 And yes, I laid there on top of them and in  
16 front of them so they could not be shot.

17 Google Fox News.

18 Also Google 10 year old steals van. What  
19 you need across the City of Philadelphia, in  
20 these hot spots and in these hot pockets --  
21 I've only been telling y'all forever. The  
22 Councilwoman can tell you. She's given me  
23 plenty of recommendations. I always miss it by  
24 one vote getting any help or any support.

1           I just put in for four of those PAAN  
2    grants. I ain't get a nickel. But I got all  
3    their kids. They are at my store right now.  
4    They are doing district services.

5           I created the West Market Street  
6    Improvement Association to show you anywhere in  
7    any under served community, the money is  
8    sitting right in the commerce department to  
9    help create these jobs.

10          Your RCOs, registered community  
11   organizations, have to do better community  
12   agreements with the community to create these  
13   jobs. That's where the money is. You got to  
14   create self-sustainable projects that you don't  
15   have to keep coming back and begging and asking  
16   for money for people. None of your programs  
17   are self-sustaining.

18          All of your programs right now only last  
19   two to three to six weeks. We just bragged and  
20   had a press conference talking about 8,000 jobs  
21   that's getting ready to come to the city for  
22   the youth across the city. They only last for  
23   six weeks. That's not enough. And it's not  
24   going to be enough until we create more

1 opportunity for people.

2 One way to do it is by revamping your  
3 RCOs. When y'all come back, the community  
4 agreements need to be done different, because  
5 those businesses that are moving in our  
6 communities, that are getting these tax  
7 abatements and not paying no taxes or anything  
8 like that, that money belongs on our streets  
9 cleaning our communities, providing safety in  
10 our communities.

11 Town watch needs to be funded. If you  
12 want to start talking about the crime and the  
13 violence, why don't y'all just fund town watch?  
14 Why does town watch do nothing but give pieces  
15 of paper out? What am I supposed to do with  
16 this piece of paper? Throw it at the  
17 criminals? We're out there -- boots on the  
18 ground. I need bikes. I need flashlights. I  
19 need walkie talkies. I need funding. The same  
20 funding I've been asking y'all for.

21 Councilwoman has set up many, many  
22 meetings for me to sit with most you. And in  
23 those meetings, I got SEPTA there. I got the  
24 Commerce Department there. Everything that we

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1 asked for, we got nothing. I need to know  
2 where the money's at. And when is the real  
3 organizations out there doing the work going to  
4 get some support?

5 My name is Arnett Woodall. You can reach  
6 me at Arnett Woodall @WestPhiladelphiaProduce,  
7 @ArnettWoodall on Instagram, Arnett Woodall for  
8 Mayor. This year -- I'm running for mayor  
9 right now. Because one way or another,  
10 somebody got to fix it. And if I can't work  
11 with you, you will work for me. I will run  
12 until I'm elected to fix the situation.

13 West Philadelphia Produce is teaching  
14 community hub. Every one of your communities  
15 that have these spikes in crime need a  
16 community hub in it.

17 If I robbed you right now if you're out on  
18 the street, ain't a phone booth in the  
19 community for you to go to. Where does your  
20 community go to if you get robbed on the street  
21 and I take your phone? You can't call the  
22 Police. You can't go nowhere.

23 You don't have a public bathroom on any of  
24 your commercial corridors for a senior citizen,

1 for a child, for a person to use. You put it  
2 in your community hub. My town watch runs out  
3 my community hub. My community clean team runs  
4 out of my community hub.

5 Your community needs support. They don't  
6 need 500 enforcement officers. Right now, what  
7 your city doesn't need is more enforcement. It  
8 needs more support and more help.

9 And we're looking for your -- I don't even  
10 know how we're going on a break with this spike  
11 in crime. We're all getting ready to go on a  
12 break. How are we going on break? We need to  
13 be in a think tank right now. You put in a  
14 room with some of your smartest people, I can  
15 help you. I'm only a scholar on communities.  
16 And I've only been doing this my whole life.

17 16 years in the prison, not as a return  
18 citizen. I was the teacher in there. I was  
19 the educator in the system. And I've been  
20 trying to educate y'all on what needs to be  
21 done.

22 When I used to -- my children used to cut  
23 your grass, Councilman, I used to let you put  
24 the money -- when you would come to your

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1 sister's door, I used to send the youth so you  
2 can put the money in their hand. They need job  
3 opportunities where people are showing them  
4 that their life is worth something and putting  
5 money in their hand and bringing them resources  
6 to create jobs.

7 West Philadelphia Produce is teaching them  
8 how to be culinary art chefs. My son, I just  
9 let leave the City of Philadelphia because of  
10 violence. My son is now in Dallas, Texas  
11 running the Marriott and working on the side at  
12 the Response Network Center.

13 You got to be teaching -- Narcan got to be  
14 coming out of your community hubs. Your first  
15 aid training -- your first responders are your  
16 community, as you see from right there from  
17 that resolution that I just shared with you.

18 Also, in that packet is a group of links.  
19 That ain't even all the links. I've been on  
20 the cover of every one of your newspapers, on  
21 Good Morning America, ABC, NBC -- not supported  
22 by y'all. But y'all got to start supporting  
23 the people that's out there with boots on the  
24 ground. And you need to do it immediately.

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1 Lives can be saved.

2 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

3 (Round of applause.)

4 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Reverend Greg  
5 Holston?

6 REVEREND HOLSTON: Thank you. Again, my  
7 name is Reverend Gregory Holston. I'm the  
8 Executive Director of POWER. POWER is now 83  
9 congregations plus another 40 congregations  
10 across the City of Philadelphia, the  
11 surrounding counties, and now organizing in the  
12 middle of the state. Building communities of  
13 opportunity that work for all.

14 We are a part of a national organization  
15 called faith in action, which has 46  
16 affiliates, just like us, in about 22 states  
17 across the nation representing 2.2 million. I  
18 bring them up today -- I normally don't mention  
19 the national group -- is because our national  
20 Live Free Campaign, which is about criminal  
21 justice reform, ending mass incarceration,  
22 police accountability and ending gun violence,  
23 has had a great deal of success across the  
24 nation. Bringing faith people, faith

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1      communities together, along with anti-gun  
2      violence organization along with the whole  
3      community in reducing gun violence.

4              The report that you read, Councilman, from  
5      Oak Land, is a leader of our Live Free Team.  
6      And Reverend Michael McBride, who is a great  
7      expert in this issue, as well as our  
8      connections -- a reduction to 50 percent in  
9      Oakland. A similar reduction in Indianapolis.  
10     Similar reductions in New York City with the  
11    black consortium of leaders around gun and  
12    across the nation. We have had good results.

13              One of things Reverend McBride says, first  
14    of all, is to recognize that the black  
15    community is not a violent community. The  
16    black community is, for the most part -- are  
17    not engaged in violence at all. Only about .5  
18    percent, half a percent, of the people in the  
19    black community are engaged in any violent  
20    activity.

21              So I say that because we present these  
22    images. And everybody thinks everybody in the  
23    black community is always out shooting  
24    somebody. And that's just not been the case.

1           So there's about 700,000 black folk in  
2 Philadelphia. Point 5 percent is about 3,500  
3 people -- mostly young people, mostly men that  
4 are involved in this gun violence -- 3,500  
5 people. So if we recognize that we're talking  
6 about mainly 3,500 people that are involved in  
7 these activities that are causing tens of  
8 thousands of people to feel uncomfortable or  
9 afraid in their own communities, that we do  
10 some real intervention for those 3,500 people,  
11 then we can make real change in dealing with  
12 the violence in our communities.

13           To put somebody in prison, which is --  
14 those 3,500 people, we had a whole police force  
15 here today, that's their job -- to put that  
16 3,500 people in prison -- costs about \$45,000 a  
17 year for each individual. So if you lock all  
18 of them up and put all of them in jail, it  
19 would cost about \$140 million to house them for  
20 a year. So if you got everybody off the street  
21 that was involved in violence at all, it's  
22 about \$140 million you would spend.

23           If you intervene beforehand and spend  
24 some -- the statistics say, Reverend McBride is

1 very good at this, if you spend somewhere  
2 around 25 to \$30,000 for each of those  
3 individuals, that's how -- that's the  
4 intervention that can transform and change  
5 their lives. It can bring them into job  
6 opportunities, career opportunities, build a  
7 better community and build better people out of  
8 that 3,500 folk. That's going to cost  
9 somewhere around \$90 million to do that.

10 Now, so we put all our money in policing.  
11 And we think that's going to make us safe. But  
12 police can't make us safe. The idea or  
13 understanding of what public safety is has to  
14 be a broader concept than what the police or  
15 the district attorney does.

16 To hear this testimony today and recognize  
17 that most of time was spent on talking about  
18 what the DA thinks and what the police thinks,  
19 when they are really not the driver of creating  
20 real public safety in our community.

21 We have a third arm. And that third arm,  
22 we do not spend enough money on. The third arm  
23 are those anti-gun violence organizations,  
24 those health organizations that intervene in

1 the lives of people, and really can move that  
2 3,500 people into better lives and out of  
3 violence. And so we only spend \$6 million on  
4 them, when we should be spending about  
5 90 million.

6 So our scope and our vision of what we  
7 need to do is entirely too small. And I said  
8 this to even Emir and Remerta Isrea is in my  
9 church. They are housed in my church, the  
10 church that I pastor. And I said to them, I  
11 said -- you know, your work is great. 500  
12 families every year that are victims of gun  
13 violence comes through their doors and they  
14 service them in a variety of different ways.

15 But I always say to them, your vision is  
16 too small. To really deal with this problem,  
17 you need to be a lot bigger than this. You  
18 need to have hubs all across the City.  
19 Whatever you're doing at my church, you need to  
20 be doing at 25, 30 churches the same kind of  
21 way. Your vision is not big enough for the  
22 magnitude of the problem that's faced.

23 And so what I'm saying, even to anti-gun  
24 folks, your vision is that small because the

1 budget has been reduced so much, you're not  
2 even dreaming big enough to really solve the  
3 problem. And so you guys, Council People, got  
4 to have a bigger vision, as well.

5 Everyone talks about Mayor Nutter in 2008  
6 cut a budget for a lot of these programs. And  
7 the money never really got put in by Kenney  
8 back again. But the reality is, the budget  
9 ain't ever been big enough to deal with the gun  
10 violence in our community, to deal with the  
11 needs in our community.

12 And so instead of paying it on prisons and  
13 jail, which is cost us 140 million, it makes  
14 more sense to take that money in -- and what DA  
15 Krasner is basically trying to do -- he's  
16 trying to reduce the prison population so we  
17 can take that money and put it into  
18 intervention beforehand.

19 We need to up our game a great deal. We  
20 need to spend a lot more money than we're  
21 spending. And until we -- the figure of  
22 \$700,000, quite frankly, was laughable -- that  
23 you're giving that out to these groups. That  
24 was laughable. To even bring that number up

1 and suggest that somehow we can solve that  
2 problem for \$700,000 was just ridiculous. But  
3 yet, no one even looked at it as ridiculous.  
4 People didn't say it was ridiculous. No. We  
5 need at least a \$10 million infusion right now.  
6 This is an emergency right now. These groups  
7 are on the ground.

8       People like Amir have a hub program that  
9 they want to put in place. Give them the  
10 2 million that they want to use right now to  
11 put that hub program in place and make that  
12 happen right now. Get the 10 million on the  
13 street right now.

14       If we're really serious about this being  
15 an emergency and children are shooting up  
16 graduation parties and proms and all of this  
17 stuff is going on, we need at least 10 million  
18 on the street right now, this summer, to be  
19 able to solve the problem, to get some of these  
20 3,500 people that everyone has already  
21 identified and know who they are. They know  
22 who they are. The police know who they are.  
23 Everybody know who they are.

24       So if you know who they are, instead of

1 stopping and frisking them and trying to harass  
2 them and doing special Pinpoint operations to  
3 deal with them, you need to go up and talk to  
4 them and say, I need to get you a job and get  
5 you a better life. I got a program right now  
6 that's going to help you do that. Will you  
7 stop shooting people if we can get you in this  
8 program?

9 This is not rocket science. Sister Fattah  
10 was doing this in the 1970's with no money, but  
11 now we need some real money to do this in 2019.  
12 I'm looking for this Council to step up and  
13 have a special session and find \$10 million to  
14 put on the street this summer. Not wait two  
15 weeks and have a meeting July 25th where the  
16 summer is already gone. I'm talking about in  
17 48 hours, get me \$10 million on the street.

18 Get it in the hands of Mothers in Charge.  
19 Get it in the hands of Amir. Get it in the  
20 hands of the Charles family. Get it in the  
21 hands of the folk who know how to do this  
22 problem. And get it in the hands right now, so  
23 we can start dealing right now on the street.  
24 Why can't this City Council do that? I was

1 told we got \$360 million in a rainy day fund.

2 Well if this ain't a rainy day when they're  
3 shooting up graduations, I don't know what is.

4 (Round of applause.)

5 COUNCILMAN JONES: Sometime a simple  
6 assertion of the truth is what you need. And  
7 what I heard from you today is something that  
8 me and my colleagues have been vexed with. And  
9 in those quiet meetings when the cameras aren't  
10 on, we raise the issue of these kinds of  
11 appropriations.

12 We were able to, a couple of years ago,  
13 close a prison. And I wanted to tell you --  
14 and thank you, because one of your  
15 presentations right across the hall, you showed  
16 a \$1 million block where we spent a million  
17 dollars to over incarcerate, prosecute, arrest  
18 one block. And that statistic never left my  
19 head. So when we fought to close that  
20 prison -- that's about somewhere between a  
21 \$12 million and \$14 million savings a year that  
22 needs to be appropriated towards these efforts.

23 I'm going to take you up -- I don't know  
24 about a special session of Council, but we can

1 get a special session with the Mayor to talk  
2 about this kind of appropriation. And I'm  
3 willing to do that.

4 MS. GOODMAN: Virginia is doing a special  
5 session of the legislature. The governor  
6 called them in after the recent shooting in  
7 Virginia Beach. So I want to echo Pastor Greg  
8 and say if you called a special session of  
9 Council, I think people would be motivated and  
10 inspired and ready to fight with you.

11 REVEREND HOLSTON: And I would say  
12 strongly to you, because I believe in you -- I  
13 believe in you, especially, Councilman  
14 Kenyatta. I know your efforts on gun violence  
15 and also Councilman Jones. I know how deeply  
16 y'all care about this. And I'm like, let's  
17 step up, man. This is leadership time.

18 Leaders say this is an emergency. We need  
19 to meet. We need to improve this. We need to  
20 move this forward. That's what it's all about.  
21 And there's some moments in time when you got  
22 to grab it -- look man, they shot up a  
23 graduation. I mean, nobody does -- even as bad  
24 as it was in the 70's when I was growing up,

1 nobody shot up a graduation party. Nobody  
2 would dare -- there was some stuff you just  
3 don't do -- proms and graduations. You didn't  
4 touch those -- church. You didn't touch them.  
5 Now they are touching them.

6 And look what Ross said, what Commissioner  
7 Ross said, they were in the block. All the  
8 cops were there. And half way down the street,  
9 they pulled up and shot somebody else. Man,  
10 come on, man. This is crazy out here. And we  
11 got to respond like it is an emergency. And it  
12 is.

13 And this kind of appropriation in the  
14 hands of folks who already proven their work.  
15 You ain't got to go back through it. Everybody  
16 knows what Mothers In Charge have done. You  
17 know what they done. So go ahead and fund the  
18 folk and help support them with all the  
19 administrative help that they need to make sure  
20 all that money is administered in the right  
21 way. Give them the fiscal support that they  
22 need, so they can go out on street and do  
23 what's necessary.

24 MS. SIMONSON: I'm not on your list, but

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1 I'm allowed to talk?

2 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Yes. We're going to  
3 do this first. Just before you start, if you  
4 don't mind, any other questions for the  
5 immediate panel?

6 (No response.)

7 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: We're going to call  
8 up our next individual panelists. Thank you  
9 very much for your testimony. I appreciate it.  
10 Just one second, ma'am.

11 Anyone else here to testify please come to  
12 the microphone.

13 (Witnesses approached the witness table.)

14 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Please state your  
15 name for the record, please.

16 MS. SIMONSON: My name is Wendy Simonson.  
17 I'm an educator from California. I moved out  
18 here because my son and his wife split up, so I  
19 help with the grandkids.

20 I cannot believe that Philadelphia has  
21 high schools that are rated at one and a two.  
22 That's criminal, yet you spend a fortune on  
23 your prisons. I always taught at-risk kids at  
24 the high school level. I've run peer tutoring

1 programs at a high school, at a community  
2 college -- I mean at a middle school, and  
3 elementary schools. I've trained third to  
4 fifth graders to teach each other.

5 It is just as easy to teach a kid to read  
6 as it is to teach a kid to walk. There's no  
7 excuse for it. These kids are not stupid.

8 There are no learning centers at almost  
9 every school in this district. Every school  
10 should have a learning center. All these kids  
11 are capable of learning. You don't have to  
12 label them and put them in special ed just  
13 because they are like two years behind in  
14 reading, writing, study skills or math. That's  
15 not necessary.

16 Once they have basic skills, they can do  
17 any job. You don't have a lot of the basic  
18 programs like becoming a plumber, becoming a  
19 mechanic, becoming all these other skills that  
20 we used to have. When I was in school, you  
21 could take those programs. Those aren't all  
22 available.

23 When I taught high school, I taught  
24 independent study for all the pregnant girls

1 and young mothers and kids that had to work. A  
2 girl that's 13 years old is not really ready to  
3 have a child. In my high school district, they  
4 only taught abstinence. Just don't have sex.  
5 Well, we had a highest teenage pregnancy rate  
6 in the entire nation. When I was working in  
7 the school district teaching pregnant girls.

8 I don't know what you do for your sex  
9 education in this area, but that's also a huge  
10 area that needs to be addressed because it's  
11 hard enough to be a mother -- I was 29 as a  
12 first mother -- it's hard enough to be a mother  
13 when you're college educated, married, and have  
14 a good job.

15 So any way, every school should have a  
16 learning center. All these things that they've  
17 talked about all need to happen. You don't  
18 need a million police frisking everybody all  
19 over the place. You don't need to have  
20 people's cars being taken because they can't  
21 pay a parking ticket.

22 You guys make a fortune on taking people's  
23 vehicles because they can't pay to get them  
24 back. Well, I know a lot of people in

1 California who lost their cars, because they  
2 couldn't pay the parking tickets that they had.  
3 You have to take 10,000 cars a year in  
4 Philadelphia. Is that really helping people?  
5 That's not helping anybody. Why do you do  
6 that? It's not fair.

7 So anyway, do something about the schools.  
8 A learning center in every single school -- put  
9 the money in the schools and don't allow the  
10 teachers to yell at the kids. Teachers should  
11 not yell at children. And there should be a  
12 consequence.

13 If you're a child at a high school and you  
14 keep getting referrals and you keep bullying  
15 people, there needs to be a record of that. I  
16 called my School District. I called my police  
17 station when I stopped teaching in my district,  
18 I said, I know this particular young man. He  
19 is going to cause crime. He's going to kill  
20 people. Oh, we can't do anything until he does  
21 something. Well, he's done plenty at the high  
22 school. Why are those records not forwarded to  
23 the police departments? There's no  
24 consequence.

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1           I was on jury duty. They spent all this  
2 time asking us a million questions. If they  
3 spent even five minutes like that with the kids  
4 in high school, we wouldn't be at jury duty  
5 with the kid.

6           COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you for  
7 much, ma'am, for your insight. Thank you.

8           MS. BROWN: Hello. My name is Charlotte  
9 Greer-Brown. And I'm a community advocate, a  
10 youth advocate, community activist, whatever  
11 you want to call yourself. I just know I'm a  
12 concerned citizen. Before I begin -- oh, and I  
13 also have an organization called the Elite 30  
14 Association and Coalition.

15           But I just wanted to say something that  
16 was very vital for the record. I don't think  
17 those type of things should be filtered down to  
18 a Police Department with those different  
19 issues. There should be an intervention or  
20 somewhere -- a cool out time, or someone who is  
21 professional that can handle that, or people  
22 that they can recognize and identify with. We  
23 can't keep pushing things to the police system.

24           I'm here to speak from the grassroot

1 perspective. On the ground where Facebook Live  
2 and social media and cameras are not there,  
3 where there are people who are risking their  
4 lives to pull over and intervene in situations  
5 where there may be a shoot out or a boyfriend  
6 or a male choking a female. These are things  
7 that I have been seeing lately, where there are  
8 people who have been intervening.

9 And with this coalition that I have, the  
10 Elite 30 Association and Coalition, there are  
11 55 small businesses, organizations and  
12 nonprofits, who have come together over the  
13 past three years to make a difference,  
14 collectively. We may have different mission  
15 statements, but we do understand the importance  
16 of coming together.

17 I look at the faces here, since I've been  
18 here since 11 something, and people are so  
19 nonchalant. It's easy to be that way when  
20 you're not in the community. You don't hear  
21 the gunshots.

22 Just the other day, I was off at Allegheny  
23 near Clearfield -- off of Broad near Clearfield  
24 at the KFC. And I went back to get some

1 change, and I can hear it not far from me. And  
2 I was grabbing my change out the window and I  
3 heard pop, pop, pop.

4 So for me being a 39th Police District  
5 advisory council member, 22nd Police District  
6 advisory council member, a township member, DA  
7 Youth A panelist -- I mean, I can just go on.  
8 I have involved myself in all these different  
9 areas, so that I can be able to be well  
10 rounded.

11 And to know all that and have all that and  
12 hear all that and not be able to pinpoint or  
13 have answers from those type of things that  
14 happen, we know that the community needs  
15 support. But we also know that it's a  
16 situation where those groups that come together  
17 to understand what the need is.

18 You can ask police officers, you can ask  
19 different people, but you have to ask people  
20 who are on the grounds. And I gave you a card,  
21 Councilman Kenyatta, and I gave a card to  
22 Ms. Vanessa recently so that we can collaborate  
23 with those nonprofits, small business and  
24 organizations who decided to come together.

1           Yes I'm all for police and I'm all for  
2   town watching. I'm all for that. I'm all for  
3   building gaps and bridges. We've been saying  
4   these same things over and over again.

5           But when you get a phone call at 2:00 in  
6   the morning where someone needs somewhere to  
7   stay, live, eat -- I am one of those people who  
8   people call.

9           Now, yes I used to work for the State. I  
10   was a community outreach person. So I  
11   understand the structure that needs to go  
12   around connecting. But your grassroot people  
13   are really the people who know what's going on.  
14   We keep asking all these other individuals who  
15   are not there. Academia has nothing to do with  
16   experience. And right now, I can give you a  
17   whole list of things I participated in,  
18   Academia, everything, but that has nothing to  
19   do with the fact I've been on the ground and  
20   had the chance to hear what these people are  
21   saying.

22           Yesterday we gathered over 70 young people  
23   and Forget Me Not Youth Services at 2321 North  
24   Broad Street to come out and hear the late

1 goat, greatest of all time, Muhammad Ali's  
2 oldest daughter, Maryum Ali, to hear her  
3 empower them. But we have people like Maryum  
4 Ali in our community who can come and tell you,  
5 Listen, I did A, B and C. Now this is where my  
6 life is. We have to use the people around.

7 I'm here to speak on behalf of grassroot  
8 organizations. And as I mentioned before,  
9 there are several coalitions who come  
10 together -- because that's your pool. You  
11 don't have to go looking or searching on the  
12 Google or the internet and looking for the  
13 nonprofits that are effective in small business  
14 organizations. You already have them working  
15 together. I think you should start there.

16 And the reason I brought up the nonchalant  
17 faces, this is crisis. And I bet you right now  
18 one of my notifications, once my phone comes  
19 back on, I'm probably going to see something  
20 about a shooting. We have to take it more  
21 seriously. Thank you.

22 MR. ROMAN: My name is Gabriel Roman. I'm  
23 just a citizen of Philadelphia. I've lived  
24 here my whole life, you know, from East Philly

1 to South Philly to West Philly now. And I've  
2 had to move. And I got kicked out of my house  
3 and moved around.

4 But in the past week or two, I've heard  
5 more shootings happen in my neighborhood than  
6 ever. And I don't know why or what is exactly  
7 going on in peoples' minds. Maybe Trump and a  
8 bunny are just going at it, right, but who  
9 cares. Because Philadelphia is Philadelphia  
10 and we got to keep ourselves safe. And we have  
11 our own home that we have to keep -- this is  
12 our homeland.

13 And I appreciate both of you for being the  
14 two City Council Members who have sat here the  
15 whole time listening to us -- and everyone else  
16 that has been here -- that's come and gone. I  
17 was here a couple hours ago. But thank you.

18 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you for  
19 sticking around.

20 Before we wrap up, is there anyone else  
21 here to testify on this bill?

22 (No response.)

23 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Before you leave, a  
24 couple of things. One, I want you take you up

1 on that grassroot issue. I know in my part of  
2 time, I love to be connected more with  
3 grassroot organizations that have boots on the  
4 ground. I want you to also know, I get them  
5 same calls at two in the morning about somebody  
6 who is either homeless, some act of violence  
7 that's about to go down or those kinds of  
8 things. So trust and believe. We commiserate  
9 together. When we watch the news, we watch it  
10 differently.

11 We watch -- first, we pray for the soul  
12 that might be taken. The second thing I do is  
13 the geography of where it was. I say was the  
14 Kenyatta's area? Was it Councilwoman  
15 Blackwell's area? And it weighs on us in that  
16 regard.

17 I want you to understand, we want a  
18 sincere connected partnership in resolving  
19 this. When we sit here, we hear it all time.  
20 But we're affected by it, too.

21 When I was 16 years old, I was walking  
22 to -- you won't know what this is -- it was a  
23 social. Maybe Pastor Mike would now, because  
24 he mentioned the 70's. And in my neighborhood,

1 somebody came out of a driveway and shot into  
2 the crowd and killed a young lady I was with.  
3 It's not academic for me, this is -- which is  
4 worse. And I did the piece with Sister Falaka  
5 on their documentary. It's generational.

6 The worst thing that happened was that  
7 young lady died. 30 years later, I'm in  
8 office. I go to a shooting at Tustin. I look  
9 through the crowd about the young person that  
10 was killed. And who is the parent of the  
11 person? The sister of the one that was killed.  
12 It's generational.

13 And somebody said if we don't want to be  
14 here talking about this a decade from now, we  
15 need to do something different. So that  
16 difference is this connectivity with people who  
17 may be able to do what Pastor said and get the  
18 Mayor to commit to some more resources.

19 But also, we have to have the baskets to  
20 put it in that are effective that we can  
21 measure those results with.

22 MS. BROWN: Number one, I'm not one of  
23 those people that get up and -- although I can  
24 hold my ground and speak publicly. You got to

1 understand, I'm a behind the scenes worker.  
2 And I make things happen. I made my middle  
3 name, I make things happen. Because we have to  
4 understand, this is not about you. It's not  
5 about me. It's not about any of us. What  
6 we're doing is we're providing human service to  
7 the community.

8 And when I speak, I don't just speak from  
9 me. I'm speaking for the other individuals who  
10 are here who left.

11 Reverend Jeanette Davis and I -- we all  
12 are partners Philadelphia CeaseFire, PA  
13 CeaseFire, all of us are partners. And we come  
14 together. So you have 60 leaders, almost, here  
15 today that's the head of these organizations  
16 that I'm telling you about.

17 Over the past three years, we decided to  
18 come together and work together. But what I'm  
19 saying to you is, I'm not the only person who  
20 gets those phone calls. They do, too. And  
21 what's beautifully happening, that you probably  
22 are not seeing, on social media, we have taken  
23 over this thing.

24 I mean, I can tell you -- if you go and

1 request to be my friend right now, almost  
2 everybody you know or affiliate with from  
3 elected officials to grassroot is right there.  
4 I mean, even the people behind me, we all have  
5 the same network. We just needed to know how  
6 to use it. But we use it on social media  
7 platform.

8 And just to wrap it up, we have been able  
9 to say such and such need help. If I'm not  
10 able to do it, I tag the individuals that are  
11 able to do it. We have to take that tool on  
12 social media and bring it to reality.

13 COUNCILMAN JONES: All I'm saying in  
14 closing, I'm going to be your friend. Let's  
15 make it happen.

16 MS. BROWN: We need to work together.

17 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you. This  
18 concludes our witnesses for today. This  
19 hearing will stand in recess to the Call of the  
20 Chair.

21 I just want to thank everyone who stuck it  
22 out. We started at 11. It's 4. But this  
23 isn't the first time that we've done this same  
24 type of hearing on gun violence. We've done it

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1       a couple years ago and it lasted for the same  
2       period of time. It was very serious. So we're  
3       going to take this information back and look at  
4       how we continuously step up to the plate to  
5       address this issue of youth gun violence.  
6       Thank you very much.

7               - - - - -

8 (Whereupon the hearing concluded at 3:49 p.m.)

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4

5                   I, hereby certify that the  
6       proceedings and evidence noted are  
7       contained fully and accurately in the  
8       stenographic notes taken by me in the  
9       foregoing matter, and that this is a  
10      correct transcript of the same.

11                   \_\_\_\_\_  
12                   Kathryn Doyle  
13                   Court Reporter - Notary Public  
14  
15                   (The foregoing certification of  
16       this transcript does not apply to any  
17       reproduction of the same by any means,  
18       unless under the direct control/or  
19       supervision of the certifying reporter.)  
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